Entertainment / A2-3
A Rizal movie still waiting to be made

■ Business / B1
Economy seen growing by 5% in second quarter

■ World / A10
Gunmen release 5 Filipinos in Cambodia school hostage drama

■ Metro / A23
NBI arrests 10 Chinese GROs in Manila bar

■ Across / A17
'Jueteng' thrives in Batangas, Laguna

100 US-made rifles seized at Manila port

ABOUT 100 US-made assault rifles have been discovered in a shipment of household goods from California, and investigators are looking into whether the weapons were intended for an alleged plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo, police said yesterday.

The new AR-15 rifles—a type used by US troops—were disassembled and the parts dis-

100 US/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Destabilization awaits anti-GMA destabilizers

By Norman Bordadora

THE SO-CALLED "destabilizers" have yet to seize power, but allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo are already planning their own destabilization drive

DESTABILIZATION/ A7

'They are going too far'

AN UNSMILING President Macapagal-Arroyo waits to speak at the launch of the second Philippine progress report on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. The main objective of the MDGs is the elimination of extreme poverty, which still saddles a large sector of the Philippine population. REUTERS

GMA slams 'irresponsible detractors'

By Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Dizon

BUOYED by a positive report on the economic front, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday went on the offensive against her political opponents, accusing them of making a last-ditch effort to derail her development goals now that she is on the verge of achieving them and vowing she would not be deterred.

"For four long years, I have taken personal abuse in the hope that reconciliation will be about national harmony," the President said.

"But now they are trying and they are going too far, because this is their 'now or never,'" she said. "No one shall block the path of the presidency, not even my irresponsible detractors who wish to set back our gains and reverse our engine of growth and development."

Ms Arroyo, in the center of a firestorm sparked by allegations of cheating in the last election and charges her family was involved in illegal gambling payoffs, said she had "faith in God" that "the Filipino will hold on [to] their undying faith and the future of this country and in our democratic way of life."

Ms Arroyo spoke at the Manila Hotel during the launch of the Philippine Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—a set of measurable targets and time lines reached during the UN summit in 2000 to reduce poverty and the worst forms of human degradation.

The Philippines is inching toward the achievement of several MDG targets, such as reducing extreme poverty, child mortality and the incidence of tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS; improving dietary requirements among Filipino children; gender equality in education,

THEY ARE/ A21

GMA rejects House request for tape comment

NO WAY will President Macapagal-Arroyo heed the request of the House of Representatives to make a formal comment on the raging tape scandal, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

According to Bunye, the President believes that the "real issues" of cheating in the 2004 elections and destabilization can be addressed without touching on the "dubious" tape containing alleged wiretapped conversations between her and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Bunye also said Ms Arroyo would not go to the planned inquiry of five House committees into the controversial tape if summoned.

"While we respect the process, the presence of the President will not be called for. It is a fair assumption to make [that the President would not go to Congress on whatever issue]," he told reporters.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon said keeping silent on the tape suggesting election fraud would work against Ms Arroyo.

"Difficult as it is, the President must confront this issue. There are no two ways about it," Drilon, chair of the pro-administration Liberal Party, told reporters. "She is in the best position to address this issue. No one else can."

He also said the President should not allow the controversy to linger: "She must address this issue, otherwise, other sectors will keep on taking the initiative

GMA REJECTS/ A22

'NO FRIENDS IN POLITICS'

Tape replays Biazon-Barbers poll fight

By Fe Zamora

IF FOUND to be factual recordings, the wiretapped conversations purportedly between former Sen. Robert Barbers and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano support the maxim that in politics there are no friends, just permanent interests.

The involvement of other personalities, identified by the opposition from the audio tapes as President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, in the effort to ensure the victory of Barbers over Sen. Rodolfo Biazon also showed the lengths certain people would go to, especially when their political survival was at stake.

The woman caller purported to be Ms Arroyo made her first phone call to the man believed to be Garcillano on May 26 at 11:04 a.m. at about the same time that Biazon was announcing that if cheated, he would give his enemies a taste of "war with a Marine general."

Garcillano has denied that the male voice in the tape was his.

"Si ano, si Biazon nagbabanta, kung madadaya daw siya papabuksan daw niya yung sa ... at sa Tawi-Tawi, eh baka raw ako ang matalo doon (Biazon warned that if he was cheated, he would have the [ballot boxes] in Tawi-Tawi opened. I might lose there)," the President was supposed to have said in the taped conversation with Garcillano.

At 10 p.m. of the same day, a male voice purportedly Barbers' informed "Garcillano" that an unidentified official of the Commission on Elections had offered to "sell votes" for P2 million.

"Garcillano" said he would look into the situation first, according to the tape.

"Barbers" made follow-up calls. On June 3 at 1:39 p.m., Barbers was supposed to have begged Garcillano to produce 70,000 votes for him to beat Biazon.

"Sige na, pare, patotohanin mo na. Wala nang pag-asa yan. Kung ano mang konsiderasyon sabihin mo na lang sa akin. Pare, pakisuyo lang, pakitapos na lang para yun

TAPE/ A22

Wiretap? Noli extra cautious

By Nikko Dizon

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro yesterday said the planned joint inquiry of the House into the alleged wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election commissioner should continue because the Philippines might need a more stringent law on wiretapping.

In fact, De Castro said, he himself

WIRETAP?/ A22

BUGGED, too? Vice President Noli de Castro takes a call. PDI PHOTO

VAL HANDUMON

YAP: Damage has been done.

BIR charges Cabinet member with tax evasion

By Armand N. Nocum, Cynthia D. Balana and Christine Gaylican

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue filed yesterday tax evasion charges against Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap and his father, Domingo, for their alleged failure to pay P4 million in taxes in the purchase of a property in Pasig City in 1997.

Officials of the BIR and Department of Finance said the case was not aimed at diverting public attention away from the controversies swirling around the First Family.

"This is just an operation which is required at this time of our country's economic history, when national survival depends on the revenues that the BIR and the Bureau of Customs collect. So I want to emphasize, politics has nothing to do with what we are doing," Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said at a press briefing.

Yap, said to be President Macapagal-Arroyo's favorite student when she taught economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, is the first and highest government official to be slapped with tax evasion charges since the DOF and the BIR started the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program in March.

"We are filing criminal complaints against Arthur Yap and company because Operation RATE does not favor the rich, famous and mighty," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a joint statement with the BIR.

Yap and his father, officers of DHY Realty & Development Inc., a family-owned company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, were accused of undervaluing the property to evade paying the correct documentary stamps (P923,818) and withholding taxes (P3,079,818).

Domingo was the company president, while Arthur was vice president.

Under the scheme, the Yaps ended up paying only P18,750 in taxes, according to the BIR.

Malacañang is leaving it up to the agriculture secretary to defend himself in the tax evasion case.

"This case arose from a careful study by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and we have to let justice take its course no matter who gets hurt," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

But Bunye said "due process must not be eroded by the glare of publicity."

At a press briefing in Malacañang, Bunye said the Palace was treating the

BIR CHARGES/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/17/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Palace wants closure to jueteng 'show'

MALACAÑANG wants the Senate "jueteng" investigation to end but it would also want Congress to make sure it comes up with tougher laws against the illegal numbers game to show that the investigation was not just for show.

"At the end of the day, what is the purpose of this investigation but in aid of legislation? So, we would like to see their recommendations on enacting or amending our current laws on jueteng," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in an interview with Radyo ng Bayan.

The protracted jueteng investigation has seen a procession of "whistle blowers" testifying that President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, elder son Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio Arroyo were alleged recipients of jueteng bribes.

Bunye said Malacañang supported former Sen. Jovito Salonga's proposal for a rationalization of the Senate's power to investigate, particularly in adopting the Senate's previous policy of screening witnesses in such investigations thoroughly before putting them before the hearing.

Bunye said Salonga's call for a review of the Senate's rules on investigation was "very timely."

He said the Senate during Salonga's time was "more careful" in handling witnesses.

"They process the witnesses before they are made to testify before a committee because sometimes, in the course of the investigation, there are accusations made left and right that tend to destroy or affect a person's character," Bunye said.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo yesterday called on the witnesses who testified in the Senate's jueteng investigation to step forward, file the necessary affidavits and submit their evidence so those allegedly responsible can be prosecuted.

Marcelo said his office was conducting its own jueteng investigation but unlike the one in the Senate, which is in aid of legislation, their probe is for indictment purposes.

He said the Ombudsman probe would begin as soon as the Senate investigation ends.

Marcelo said Senate probes can be helpful to Ombudsman investigators, as in the blue ribbon committee probe of the Armed Forces Retirement Separation and Benefits System (RSBS) scam.

"I hope the same thing will happen again," Marcelo said.

He said he has already created an investigating panel to handle the jueteng investigation. Lawyer Arturo Carandang, who heads the Ombudsman's field investigation office, is to head the panel.

Marcelo said his office was gathering evidence against people accused in the Senate investigation of being alleged beneficiaries and protectors of jueteng.

Besides the President's family, a number of ranking police and government officials have been implicated by the so-called whistle-blowers. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nelson F. Flores***

PNP won't probe 'jueteng' anymore

THE PHILIPPINE National Police will no longer investigate officers implicated in the Senate inquiry into jueteng, the illegal numbers game, and just let the Ombudsman deal with the matter, said PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Lomibao said the PNP-Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management will forward the results of its initial inquiry to the Ombudsman.

Immediately after the names of several top police officers were mentioned during the Senate inquiry, Lomibao ordered DIDM chief Director Marcelo Ele Jr. to look into the allegations.

Within 48 hours, Ele ordered officers who were directly and indirectly implicated in the jueteng scandal to explain.

The police officers under investigation have flatly denied their involvement in the illegal numbers game, said Ele.

These and other evidence that the police have so far gathered would be given to the Ombudsman next week, Ele said.

Lomibao, meanwhile, rejected calls from local officials in Bicol to reinstate the police officers that he had sacked for allegedly failing to curb jueteng operations in their jurisdiction.

"There are requests in Sorsogon, in Camarines Sur for their return, but we are still evaluating this," he said.

The letters included one from a priest in Camarines Sur, he said.

The chief of the Special Anti-Illegal Gambling Task Force, Chief Supt. Florante Baguio, told the INQUIRER last Wednesday that Luzon has been "jueteng-free" for the past three weeks.

"So far, so good. No one has dared to operate again," he said.

Baguio said jueteng operators seemed to be "cooperating."

"They don't want to operate. They're afraid they would get caught. Like we said, this can be stopped if everybody helped," he said.

The anti-jueteng task force, created last month in the face of accusations that police officials were on the take, continued its sweep of areas suspected of having jueteng operations.

Baguio said his men went to Pampanga and Bicol a few days ago and confirmed that the illegal numbers game was no more in these areas. ***Luige del Puerto***

Where are the President's men?

By Michael Lim Ubac

WITH all the heat being generated by the "jueteng" and wiretapping scandals, President Macapagal-Arroyo has said that she is staying in the kitchen.

But where are the President's men?

Ms Arroyo's close allies appeared to be making themselves scarce, leaving town as soon as Congress adjourned on June 11.

Senate President Franklin Drilon flew to Japan while Speaker Jose de Venecia left for France. Senators Manuel Villar and Francis Pangilinan flew to Argentina and the United States, respectively.

More than 30 other House members also packed their bags, applying for authority to travel from the House Inter-parliamentary Relations Service (IPRS).

"As far as the House and the Speaker are concerned, the President knows about the trips," said Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, chair of the House accounts committee which approves congressmen's trips.

From Tokyo, Drilon called on Ms Arroyo to clamp down on her family to save the presidency, after First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, her son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and her brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, were linked to jueteng payola.

Pangilinan left with his wife, actress Sharon Cuneta, who's reportedly on a concert tour.

Right after the Independence Day rites on June 12, De Venecia flew to France with three other congressmen to meet with members of the Paris Club to discuss a proposed debt-for-equity swap.

"Normally, when JDV leaves town, he [is away] about three to four days only," said Barbers, adding that De Venecia's trip was an official one.

As for the other legislators' trips, he said: "Before the Speaker signs it [travel authority], I sign it."

Although the IPRS and accounts committee can endorse a travel order, it is De Venecia who gives the final approval.

But Barbers said his signature was important because it means "there's a budget attached to it."

In the absence of De Venecia, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and the other "defense boys"—the term some congressmen use to describe Ms Arroyo's allies who continue to defend her—have been left to parry the brickbats thrown the administration's way daily and to ensure that the administration coalition remained solid.

In contrast, the opposition has remained intact in the country.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and his counterpart in the House, Rep. Francis Escudero, have been visible these days attending forums, conducting press conferences, issuing press releases and making themselves available 24/7.

Pimentel was the first to call on the President to step down, saying "she should do a Nixon to save the nation."

Escudero, however, said the opposition was "only after the truth," and did not care whether Vice President Noli de Castro or former Sen. Loren Legarda, who ran for vice president with presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. but lost, benefited from the raging scandals.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the headline—"Acquittal for alleged bagman"—on Page A21 of the Metro section should have read "Acquittal for alleged financier."

Abalos to 'Garci': Don't ask for reappointment

COMELEC chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday advised commissioner Virgilio Garcillano not to ask to be reappointed to the poll body because of the controversies plaguing him.

"If I were him, I would write the President a letter thanking her for giving him the opportunity to serve in the commission and at the same time, tell her not to consider him anymore for reappointment in light of what's happening," Abalos told reporters.

He said Garcillano should also consider *delicadeza* (a sense of propriety) as well as the possible public perception that the commissioner was interested in remaining in the poll body so that he could avail of the privileges as a constitutional officer.

Earlier, Abalos said Garcillano had technically lost his post after President Macapagal-Arroyo failed to renew his ad interim appointment that expired last Friday. Garcillano has been bypassed by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

If Garcillano is not reappointed, he would become a private citizen subject to ordinary criminal and court proceedings. He could also be compelled to appear in congressional inquiries.

A Comelec commissioner may only be removed through impeachment and conviction for culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust.

In an impeachment trial, the Senate sits as judge-jury while the House of Representatives acts as prosecutor.

Abalos earlier said the Comelec would not hesitate to investigate Garcillano for alleged involvement in electoral fraud once it was proven that it was his voice that was heard in an allegedly wiretapped conversation in which the President and a male voice were allegedly talking about fixing the 2004 election results.

Meanwhile, Luala Palma, president of the Comelec employees' union, asked Congress to form a special body to investigate complaints against constitutional officials like Comelec members.

She admitted that Comelec employees were saddened and affected by the allegations against Garcillano even if the work force had nothing to do with the controversy.

"It's us who face the public daily and they think we in the Comelec are all cheats," she said.

Palma added that if the allegations were true, "then it seems the government is working against us, against our wish to give credible elections."

James Jimenez, a director at the Comelec's education and information division, said the employees were not really demoralized.

He believes that about half of the employees have been affected while the other half do not believe that it was Garcillano in the audiotape. ***Jerome Aning***

PCGG, DA eye coco compromise

By Christine Gaylican

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the Department of Agriculture and various stakeholders in the coconut industry yesterday opened a window for a possible out-of-court settlement in the contested coco levy cases against businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

This was one of the options being considered by the coconut industry and its various stakeholders, PCGG chair Camilo Sabio said in an interview.

"But it remains an option. We will still pursue the cases pending before the Sandiganbayan. We would still conduct a consultation with all the stakeholders, especially the peasant farmers," Sabio told reporters.

In the first consultation meeting yesterday, the DA and the Philippine Coconut Authority assessed the feasibility of withdrawing all the court cases against Cojuangco for his alleged misuse of the coco levy funds to gain control of San Miguel Corp.

The peasant-farmer representatives at the meeting, however, were more keen on discussing the audit of the coco levy assets.

Sabio called for a multisectoral dialogue on the issues and concerns raised in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines pastoral letter issued on April 14 by Bishop Fernando Capalla, CBCP president, on the Coco Levies and the Coconut Farmers.

Small coconut farmer groups, however, will strongly oppose the latest initiative that could lead to an out-of-court settlement.

Farmer groups led by the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama) and the Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc. said in separate statements yesterday the Arroyo administration should be wary of recent moves seeking the government's support.

"We are giving chairman Sabio the benefit of the doubt right now as to why he even entertained the message of the pastoral letter. But let this also be a warning to the people in government," Pakisama chair Vic Fabe said in Filipino. Pakisama claims to have some 20,000 coconut farmer-members nationwide.

COIR executive director Jose Mari Faustino pointed out in another interview that an out-of-court settlement would mean contesting the decisions made by the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan regarding the ownership of the levies.

Faustino told the INQUIRER that there were still pending criminal cases against Cojuangco in the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman in connection with his alleged use of the coco levy funds.

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Don't let 'Garci' flee, gov't urged

By Philip C. Tubeza

DON'T let him fly the coop.

A militant lawmaker yesterday urged the authorities to prevent Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, who has reportedly gone into hiding, from fleeing the country.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said Garcillano should not be allowed to escape since he is a major figure in the wiretapping controversy embroiling President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"His conversations with the President on poll manipulation have jolted the entire nation awake and sparked even more calls for the President's resignation. By no means should Garcillano be allowed to leave the country," Beltran said.

The veteran labor leader also said Garcillano should not be reappointed by the President or confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, which bypassed his appointment last week.

Key player

"But neither should he be allowed to go into hiding or to leave the country. The investigations into this tape scandal have yet to fully unfold and Garcillano is a key player. Garcillano has singlehandedly put the credibility of the [Commission on Elections] and even the entire election process in serious doubt," Beltran said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño said reappointing Garcillano would be "the biggest mistake" Ms Arroyo "can make at this point."

"Both of them are suspect. They are viewed as partners in crime. He should not be reappointed and, like GMA, ought to be investigated. Garcillano seemed to be GMA's hatchet-man in the Comelec and was appointed there for that purpose," Casiño said.

"Now, it appears to me that he is being made the fall guy just to save the skin of GMA. He should not allow that to happen. He should speak out and tell the public the whole truth. He should tell who are the others involved in this biggest electoral fraud committed since 1969 when Ferdinand Marcos stole the presidential elections," he said.

Beltran also condemned Ms Arroyo's silence on whether she would reappoint Garcillano, with whom she purportedly had several cell phone conversations on the outcome of the May 2004 presidential elections that were tapped allegedly by military intelligence personnel.

Will Garci speak?

He also scored Garcillano's silence on the issue.

"Is there now a gag order against Garcillano? Speculations are already rife that Malacañang is keeping Garcillano from issuing statements, but its dilemma to keep Garcillano employed in the Comelec is largely due to uncertainty. Will Garcillano speak, and what will he say when asked about the taped conversations between him and the President?" he said.

Beltran said he and fellow Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano will join other progressive lawmakers and leaders of anticorruption and antifraud groups in a protest rally tomorrow in front of the Comelec offices in Intramuros, Manila.

Members of Anakpawis, Bayan Muna, Gabriela Women's Party and the anticorruption group, Patriots, as well as organizations under the umbrella of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) will rally beginning at 1 p.m.

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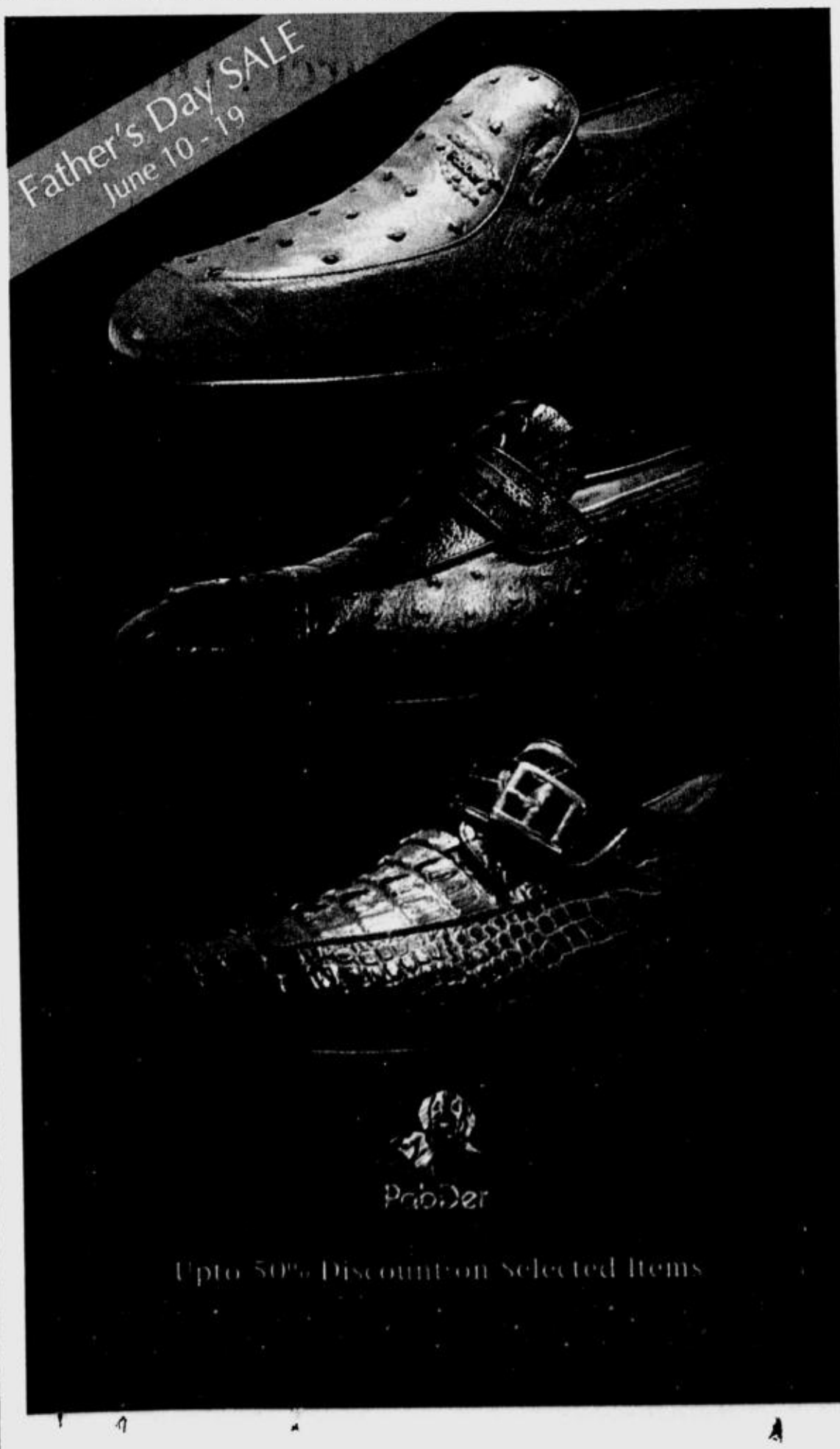

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Bunye quip spawns 'Rez Cortez for president' movement; so who's VP?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BANNERS and posters endorsing character actor Rez Cortez's run for the country's top position have cropped up in some streets in Metro Manila yesterday after being sarcastically mentioned by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye as one of the opposition's alternatives to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an interview with dzXL radio yesterday, Cortez, who has spearheaded the search for truth for the late Fernando Poe Jr., said he believed the banners were the handiwork of Bunye and Malacañang's propaganda machine to undermine the opposition's efforts to shed light on allegations that the President cheated in last year's elections based on a wiretapped conversation with Elections Commission Virgilio Garcillano.

"I have nothing to do with those banners which I think are the handiwork of Bunye and Malacañang," said Cortez who swore he has no intention of gunning for the country's highest post.

When asked to comment on Cortez's accusations, Bunye jokingly replied: "Is that so? Who's the Vice President?"

But seriously, Bunye said: "There is absolutely no truth to this. Some people may want to aggravate the situation but we're not behind this."

Alternative

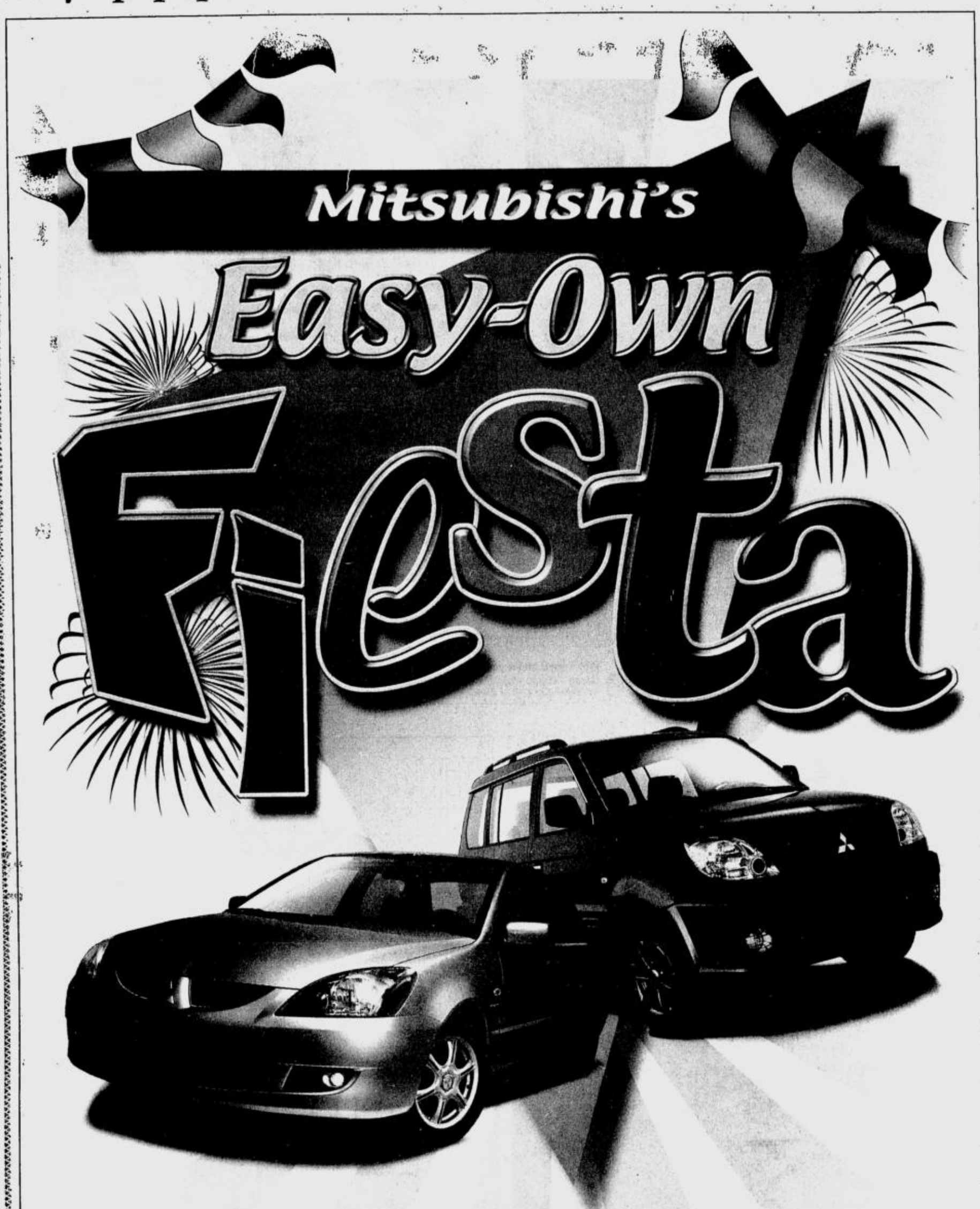
Bunye brought up the possibility of having Cortez as President at the height of the opposition's clamor for the President to step down and call for a snap election. In an interview with dwIZ radio Saturday, Bunye said: "These wayward elements hate the President but we ask them: do they have an alternative leader or program of government to offer? Do we want a military junta?"

"They should tell the public who they want to put in power. Will it be (retired Gen. Fortunato) Abat? Will it be former President (Joseph) Estrada? Will it be from the left or from the group of Ka Roger (communist spokesperson Rogelio Rosal)? Will it be Rez Cortez?"

Cortez thanked Bunye for thinking of him as "presidentiable" and invited the presidential spokesperson to join the opposition and end his job of funneling lies to the public.

The Cortez for President banners could also be a product of the Filipinos' penchant to make fun out of serious political matters.

In the case of the President's wiretapped conversation which has been converted into a novel ring tone for mobile phones, Bunye said: "It indicates that we are generally a humorous people. I don't think we should make a mountain of a molehill because this is regularly done by Filipinos."



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Rowe slay convict a free man by June 28

By Norman Bordadora

ONE OF the two men convicted in the killing of United States Army Col. James Rowe in 1989 is set to be released from prison on June 28, the human rights group Karapatan said yesterday.

Bureau of Corrections records showed Donato Continente shall have served his maximum sentence of 14 years after he entered the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City in April 1991.

"There is no more legal impediment for his release. He should be freed on June 28," said Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez.

Continente, a youth organizer who also worked at the Philippine Collegian, the school paper of the University of the Philippines, at the time Rowe was killed actually served more than 16 years in prison following his arrest in June 1989.

Enriquez said Karapatan had protested the government's decision to count Continente's years in prison from the time he was admitted into the NBP on April 13, 1991, instead of when he was arrested in connection with the Rowe killing.

"Yes," Enriquez said, when asked if Continente should have been freed two years ago.

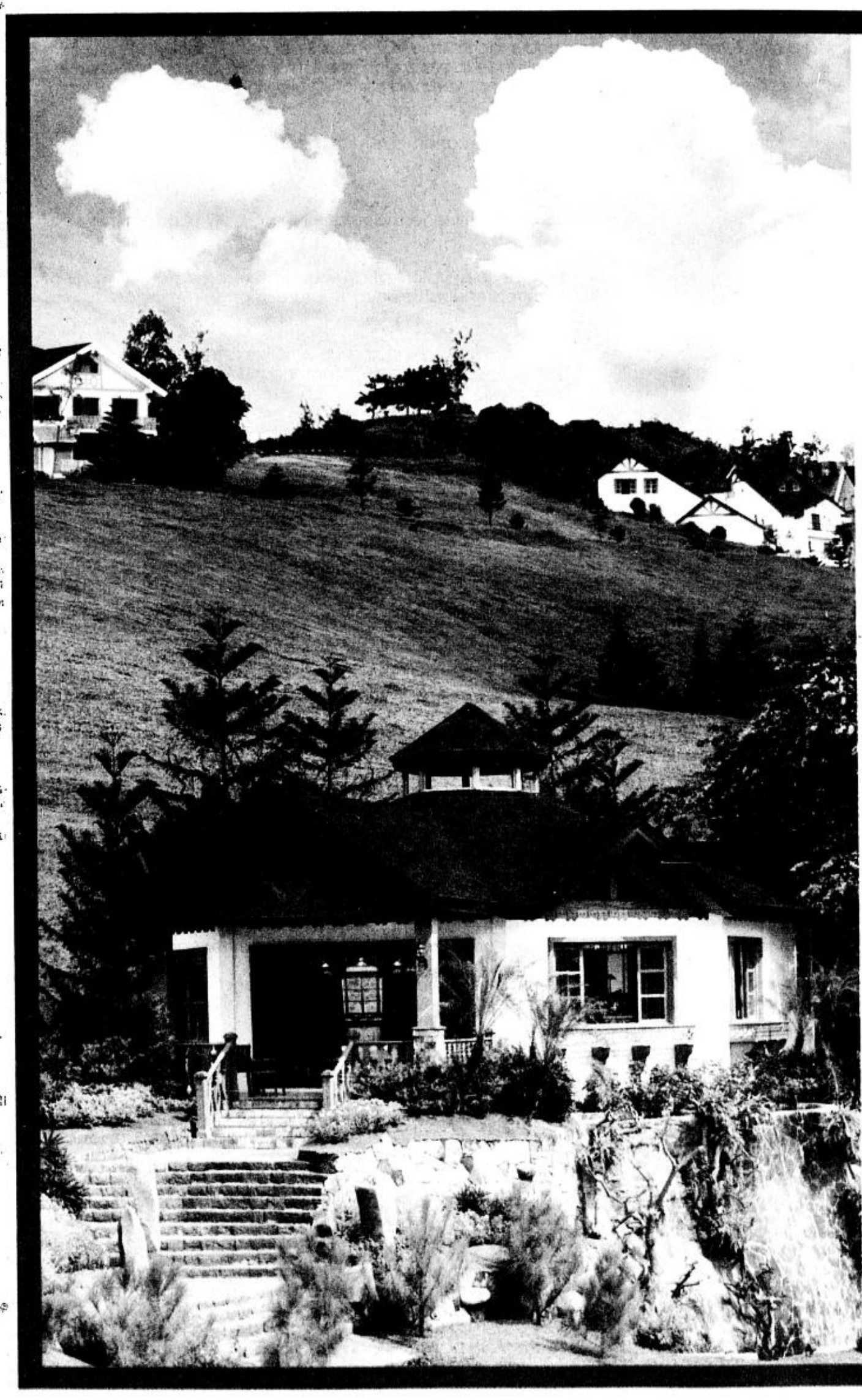
Continente was initially convicted as a principal in the murder of Rowe. He was sentenced to life in prison on Feb. 27, 1991.

Upon review, however, the Supreme Court ruled in August 2000 that he was only an accomplice and commuted his sentence to 14 years.

The communist National Democratic Front, in the course of its peace talks with the government, had sought the release of Continente and the principal accused in the case, Juanito Itaas, claiming they were political prisoners. Itaas is serving life sentence.

Their release, however, never pushed through because of supposed pressure from the US government to keep them behind bars for the killing of the American officer.

CONTINENTE



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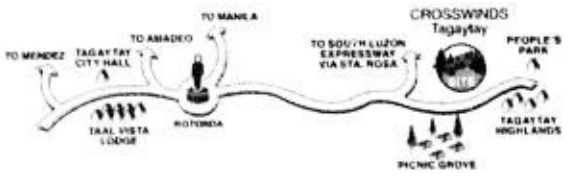

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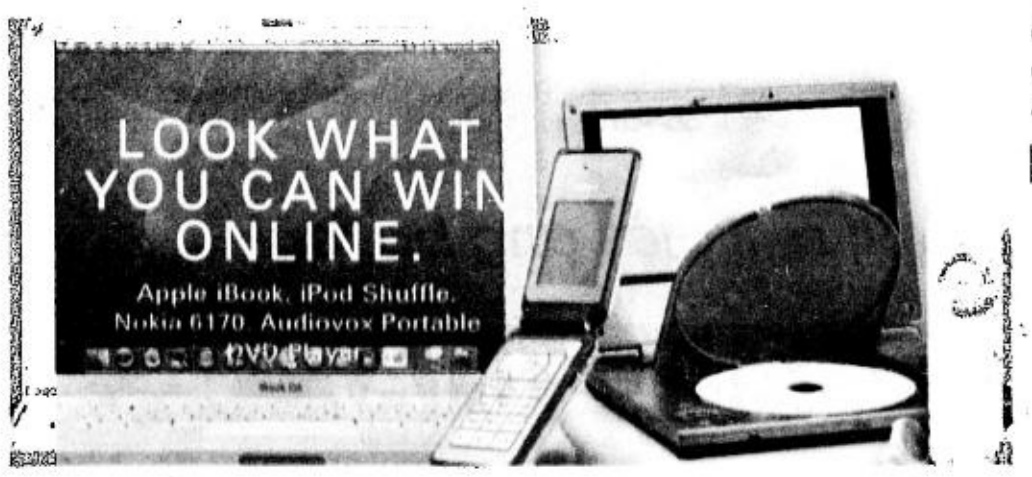

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SAVE THE ECONOMY! SAVE THE NATION!
ADOPT BOLD REFORMS NOW!

These are difficult and uncertain times for the nation. If we have to move forward as a people, the government must summon the courage to institute bold reforms to address the root causes of the deep-seated and multi-faceted economic crisis roiling the nation since EDSA I, EDSA II and EDSA III.

One major cause of the crisis is the unilateral and one-sided trade liberalization program, which our neo-liberal economists, supported by the World Bank and the IMF, have been pushing since 1980. Without any strategic transition and capacity development program, this liberalization program has exposed Philippine industry and agriculture to unfair competition through the lowering of tariffs and levels of protection for locally-produced products way below those of our Asian and other global competitors such as Thailand, China, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa and so on. For example, in 2004, Thai average applied tariffs was more than three times those of the Philippines in industry (14.2 versus 4.3 per cent) and in agriculture (29 versus 8 per cent), and yet Thai export-to-GDP ratio was much bigger (56 versus 45 per cent). Under the unilateral trade liberalization, the Philippines, instead of becoming a newly-industrializing country (NIC) like its Asian neighbors, has remained an impoverished nation, wallowing in fiscal woes, double-digit unemployment and underemployment rates and great economic uncertainties.

We, at the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), demand the adoption of urgent trade and economic reform measures as follows:

1. Rebuild the country's eroded agro-industrial base.

- Develop an agro-industrial master plan to promote national competitiveness, continuous capacity building, industrial complementation and preservation of existing industries.
- Complete the agrarian reform program now and abandon the lazy policy of agricultural deregulation in favor of an integrated program of small farmer development, rural entrepreneurship, infrastructure improvements, credit and marketing assistance, and all-out human resources development.
- Promote an entrepreneurial revolution by reviving the national spirit of *tangkilikan* and industrialism, strengthening business education at the grassroots, and promoting upgrading and value-adding 'linkaging' among micro, small, medium and big Filipino enterprises.
- Push for a just re-negotiation of the national debt and a moratorium on the debilitating debt service payment to allow the economy to recover and grow.
- Abandon the linear neo-liberal model of growth in favor of a rounded and balanced development framework emphasizing local capacity building, R & D, industry targeting, development of the home market of 85 million Filipinos, mobilization of OFW and domestic savings, and lowering the cost of doing business and farming.
- Institute decisive measures against smuggling by putting behind bars the big-time smugglers and their coddlers in the bureaucracy and by adopting the FTA/industry legislative proposals on how to curb undervaluation of imports.
- Strengthen the laws on dumping, countervailing duties and safeguards; mobilize the DFA missions overseas in monitoring unfair trade practices of exporting countries; and impose higher safeguard tariffs like what the US, Thailand and other countries are doing.

2. Level the competitive playing field for local industry and agriculture. Recalibrate tariffs NOW!

- Adjust, where appropriate, the applied tariff rates on locally-produced industrial and agricultural products to the maximum binding rates submitted by the country to the WTO in 1994.
- Harmonize the different rates being proposed by the concerned domestic industrial producers to promote the development of the entire sectors.
- Freeze the tariff rates at a uniform 3 per cent for all raw materials and industrial inputs not locally produced, except for sensitive strategic products and inputs.
- Review our commitments to the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and resist any further tariff reduction under the CEPT.

3. Uphold the cause of local industry, agriculture and employment in the trade negotiations in the WTO and other trade bodies.

- In agriculture, maintain the quantitative restrictions on rice, fight for special products (SPs) and special safeguard mechanisms (SSMs), and resist any further market opening if there are no reductions in the $1 billion a day farming subsidy of developed countries.
- On the new non-agricultural market access (NAMA) talks, resist the coverage of the fishery and footwear sectors and the formula base rate of 2 x 2001 applied tariff formula, which glosses over the earlier liberalization undertaken by the Philippines. Adoption of any non-linear tariff reduction formula should be approached with extreme caution and flexibilities should be vigorously maximized by way of wider selections in both coefficients and multipliers of the formula. Unbound locally produced products should remain unbound (or should get a binding rate higher than 50 per cent).
- On the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), oppose any talks entailing changes in the Constitution (e.g., opening up of the land market and equity liberalization in the public utility business) and coverage of essential public services (e.g., health, education, water distribution, etc.).
- On bilateral free trade agreements --1) oppose the early harvest program with China and engage Chinese officials on how to balance trade and stop the flow of smuggled goods, 2) disclose the details of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan, and 3) freeze any bilateral talks with the United States as suggested by the DTI.
- On the overall direction of trade negotiations, observe more transparency and hold meaningful and effective consultations with the private sector and concerned stakeholders. Pass the law creating the Philippine Trade Representative Office to enhance trade policy coordination based on inputs from the private sector and civil society stakeholders.

In conclusion, we, at the FTA, challenge the government to be decisive in recognizing the liberalization mistakes made in the last two and half decades under a narrow neo-liberal development framework.

Rebuild the country's agro-industrial base now! Recalibrate the tariff rates now! Assert Philippine interests in the global trading arena! Adopt a clear vision and program of reviving, reinvigorating and modernizing Philippine industry and agriculture to sustain jobs and promote the general welfare of all Filipinos!

Iligtas ang ekonomiya, iligtas ang bayan!

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Destabilization awaits anti-GMA destabilizers

From page A1

should her political opponents succeed.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, yesterday said he and his fellow governors were considering the establishment of regional governments should Ms Arroyo be ousted and replaced by a junta.

Evardone, a known ally of Ms Arroyo, said the idea of setting up autonomous regions cropped up during a recent conference of the governors' league in Metro Manila.

"It was discussed as one of the options," Evardone told the INQUIRER. "It's an effort to show the public that we are averse to the idea of an extralegal (change in government)."

Evardone's warning came even as the military yesterday took its troops off high alert, saying that there was no longer any threat of a coup against Ms Arroyo.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao ordered the lowering of the "red alert" level raised on June 9 amid reports that certain forces were planning to oust Ms Arroyo.

"I guess there is no more (destabilization) threat, that's why the red alert was downgraded," said Capt. Ramon Zagala, spokesperson of the National Capital Region Command.

"It seems the situation is back to normal, seemingly back to normal," Lomibao said.

Evardone said the plan to put up autonomous regional governments was discussed on the sidelines of the conference, but he warned that the governors would seriously consider its implementation should the Arroyo administration fall.

"We're monitoring the developments there in Manila. If things go wrong, then *kanya-kanyang bakod na kami* (we'd have to start fencing off our respective regions)," he said.

"There'd be violence under a revolutionary government. We'd have to look after the welfare of our constituents when that happens," the governor added. ***(See related story on Page A22.)***

Evardone said his fellow governors signified their intention of putting up autonomous governments in regions of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

"This holds true, especially for the Mindanao regions. They've long wanted to have their own government," he said.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, another ally of Ms Arroyo, earlier said he planned to establish an autonomous government in Ilocos should the national government fall.

"How can (the establishment of autonomous regional governments) be illegal when there is no rule of law under a revolutionary government," Singson, whose "jueteng" exposé was instrumental in the downfall of Joseph Estrada, told radio dzBB.

In the same interview, Singson disclosed that other governors were planning to carry out the same plan in their respective regions.

Evardone said the governors of Western, Central and Eastern Visayas were in constant coordination regarding political developments in Metro Manila.

Malacañang last week stoked fears of a destabilization attempt against Ms Arroyo after opposition figures said that they had taped conversations proving that she rigged last year's presidential election. Days earlier, there were also opposition accusations that Arroyo's family had received payoffs from jueteng lords. ***With reports from Luige A del Puerto, Dona Pazzibugan and AFP***

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo receives a warm welcome during her visit to Valencia, Bukidnon. INQUIRER NEWS SERVICE

100 US-made . . .

From page A1

tributed among three of 436 boxes in a steel container van that arrived June 9 at Manila's international container port, said Chief Supt. Ricardo Dapat, head of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Two sets of night vision goggles were also found in the shipment.

The discovery of the weapons came amid fresh rumors of coup plots sparked by controversies stemming from accusations of vote-rigging and illegal gambling payoffs.

"The timing is suspect here," Dapat said. "Right now, we're coordinating with our American counterparts in our investigation to identify and arrest the persons behind the foiled smuggling."

Senior Supt. Noel de los Reyes said the shipment was discovered in an operation to stop terror groups from smuggling weapons into the country.

Director Nestorio Gualberto of the Bureau of Customs' Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) said the rifle parts were detected during an X-ray inspection.

Conspiracy theory

Gualberto said his agents had been waiting for somebody to claim the boxes, but after radio stations reported the discovery of the contraband yesterday he did not think anyone would now step forward to take possession of the shipment. Media men were barred from the area.

"All our efforts to catch the culprits had come to naught," Gualberto said in a statement. "There could be a conspiracy to protect the persons involved in the firearm smuggling," he added.

The consolidated shipment was registered as "personal effects" from San Jose, California.

Customs officials said US Embassy personnel were invited to witness the opening of some of the boxes.

The ESS withheld the names of the consignees. Gualberto said a number of persons had sent the shipment and another number were supposed to receive it.

Gualberto, however, was not ruling out the possibility that the documents for the shipment were either spurious or had been tampered with. "The process of identifying the person or persons involved in the attempt to smuggle the firearms and ammunitions would be difficult," he added.

The director also raised the suspicion that firearms-smuggling had been going on for some time through the ports using consolidated shipments of *balikbayan* boxes, especially from the United States, South Korea and Hong Kong.

He asked for a review of security measures to be set in place to detect the smuggling of prohibited and banned items as he observed a continuing trend in the smuggling of illegal wares. ***Jerome Aning, AP***

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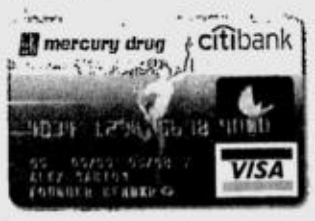

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Critic finds more errors in private school books

By Alcuin Papa

AT LEAST 24 textbooks being used in private schools are also error-filled.

Antonio Calipjo Go, who first exposed errors in textbooks last year, told the INQUIRER that the textbooks—12 in Science and 12 in English—being used mostly by students in private schools were "very defective."

The textbooks, he said, were published by the Phoenix Publishing House Inc.

One high school book in World History has as many as 1,110 errors, cited Go, an academic supervisor at the Marian School of Quezon City.

The errors, he added, were brought to the attention of the publishers as far back as seven years ago. "It's under a new title but it's the same errors. *Dumami pa*," Go said.

Go also found errors in an Asian History book used by second year high school students, and another book in Filipino.

Even the recent "Asya," which was pulled out and corrected by the Department of Education for the mistakes Go had pointed out, still contained errors, Go said.

Not listening

"People are not listening at all. I thought that after the controversy last year, there would be fewer errors. But that is not the case," Go lamented.

Go said the 12 Science textbooks were "written by teachers of the Ateneo de Manila Grade School while the 12 English textbooks were written by members of the teaching and administrative staff of St. Theresa's College of Quezon City."

Go claimed that books published by Phoenix Publishing entitled "Harnessing English Arts Today" and "Simply Science in the Next Century" were filled with errors.

These books, Go said, were submitted to him for evaluation last November. He said he had informed Phoenix about the corrections and was assured by a staff of the publishing house that the copies had been corrected.

"When I went over them (books), I found that they were exactly the same as those I had examined," Go said.

But Maria Erlinda Sibal, president of Phoenix Publishing House Inc., said the two books were submitted voluntarily to the National Book Development Board, the government agency responsible for evaluating books for the private schools.

Based on the evaluation, Sibal said, the textbooks were "generally commendable."

Go said the title of one textbook itself, "Simply Science in the Next Century," was grammatically wrong. The correct title, he said, should have been "Simplified Science in the 21st Century" or "21st Century Science Made Simple."

Sibal, however, explained "there were no comments using 'Simply' in the title." She added though that "Phoenix Publishing House is now working on the recommendations made by evaluators and reviewers and have taken note of the items that had to be improved."

She said "corrections booklets are now in the process of being distributed nationwide."

Hilarious mistakes

In the series "Harnessing English Arts Today," Go said the books were "choking with grammatical gaffes and other hilarious mistakes."

Quoting from the book, Go pointed out the grammatical mistakes in the books. "Consider these: 'His ears got sick/The late pupils missed her lessons/Business is brisk and money is rolling air/The enkantada fell in love to a handsome man who fell in love to a pretty lady/...Who is the editor-in-charge in your school organ?/The tutor tooted the flute/ Kill two birds in one stone.'"

This book, according to Sibal, was reviewed by three English experts from Ateneo's Department of English.

She added that "among the over 200 schools using these books, we have not received adverse comments to date."

"Can we really blame college graduates for the quality of English they bring to the workplace?" asked Go.

He also cited wrong information published in the books. "The miseducation of the Filipinos continues if we publish textbooks that define *muro-ami* as 'fishing method using sticks and rods' and mummification as 'a drying process that forms fossils.'"

ORANGE band means the wearer supports the fight against cancer.

Bands for Life launched tonight

A NATIONWIDE fund-raising campaign against cancer patients will be launched tonight with the "Bands for Life" event at the Megastrip B of SM Megamall.

"Bands for Life" actually stands for two things – the concert of bands Hale, Mojofly, Cambio, Sugarfree and Session Road which will be playing for free and the orange wrist-bands embossed with the battlecry "Life can be Better."

The orange bands, which will be sold for P50 each, is intended to raise money for the Cancer Support Fund and supplement the initiatives of various cancer support groups in the country, according to Biomedis Oncology, the event's organizer. It will be hosted by Angel Jacob.

The highlight of the evening are testimonials from cancer support groups which provided the public a first-hand view of the current issues in the fight against cancer in the Philippines. Focus will be centered on how psychosocial support impacts healing and patient well-being.

The orange band concept is the same as the yellow wrist band of Lance Armstrong, the six-time winner of the Tour de France who is also a cancer survivor. The yellow band is supposed to be a symbol that says that the wearer has given financial support in the fight against cancer.

Rebs, landlords blamed for delay in land reform

By Blanche S. Rivera

LAND Reform Secretary Rene Villa yesterday blamed communist insurgents and the country's political and economic elite for the delay in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

To claims by militant farmers that land distribution may have been slowest during his administration, Villa said this was because he was left with the most contentious landholdings identified for CARP coverage.

He said he had to distribute lands that were either physically claimed by members of the communist New People's Army or that were the subject of a legal struggle with influential clans and families.

"Landowners have really been fighting to keep their haciendas. These are the ones who have managed to evade (CARP) coverage all these years," Villa said in a phone interview.

"The most contentious, most problematic lands were left with me. Everybody knows that we are toward the tail end of the CARP. If it had been easy to distribute these lands, they (past DLR chiefs) should have distributed these long ago," he said.

Villa confirmed allegations by farmers' groups that landowners were employing goons to scare off land reform beneficiaries and even the field personnel of the DLR.

"Their strategy is to delay it as much as possible... They hire the smartest lawyers in town. They hire armed men, goons to make it difficult for us. How do you survey the lands? How do you talk to prospective beneficiaries?" Villa asked.

Negros, Iloilo, Bukidnon and Camarines Sur were identified as the most problematic areas for CARP implementation because of stiff resistance from landowners.

In Bicol, it's not the landowners but the NPA rebels that pose a problem for the DLR.

According to Villa, the NPA believes in taking possession of property without proper compensation under CARP.

Villa said those who oppose DLR moves to include their lands under CARP were mostly the old rich provincial families.

"It's not just political clans but economic elites. [Although] in this country, the economic elites are also the political elites in many cases. We don't make distinctions," Villa said.

He said he did not want to "unduly embarrass" the landowners by revealing their identities but assured the public that the DLR was doing "back channel" negotiations to get them to cooperate.

Villa said most landowners fear that they would not be given fair value for their land and that they would not be paid immediately.

"It's about time we address this problem of landowners' compensation, and the best way to deal with it is to make payment available to them at once," he said in a separate statement.

Villa signed Administrative Order No. 2 last month providing for the opening of a savings account under the landowner's name with the Land Bank of the Philippines while payment is being processed or a just compensation proceeding was pending before the DLR Adjudication Board.

This way, land compensation would be accruing interest to offset the depreciation of the peso during the processing or adjudication, he said.

LOG BAN VICTIMS

Furniture makers seek Senate help on wood shortage

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE CHAMBER of Furniture Industries of the Philippines has approached the Senate and will soon seek even President Macapagal-Arroyo's help to ease the shortage on the much-needed wood supply, which has been scarce since a government log ban was put in place in 14 regions last March.

CFIP chair Nick de Lange said the group recently met with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Edgardo Angara to raise the plight of some 12,000 furniture-makers and 1.8 million employees in the furniture industry.

"One thing legislators could do is to help provide furniture-makers and other wood-users regular sources of legal and sustainable wood, be it from secondary forests or tree plantations," CFIP president Roberto Locsin said in a statement.

The CFIP urged Congress to also monitor the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as permits from the agency were being ignored by checkpoints all over the country.

Even rattan and bamboo were being held in checkpoints, Locsin said.

De Lange said the CFIP saw no other legal option to meet their wood requirement while the log ban is in effect but to import timber, which would effectively raise production cost by 20 percent.

He said the senators told the CFIP that the log ban was a "sensitive public issue" and that the chances of reducing tariffs on timber imports were bigger than scrapping the log ban.

The CFIP is now pushing for duty-free importation of timber products as a long-term measure to ease the burden on local wood sources and address the wood supply chain disruption.

"It's been six months and we're not optimistic that the government actually has a plan to address this problem... Imports would have been viable if there were no tariff... so let the imports flow in," De Lange said.

De Lange said local manufacturers who want to import their raw materials have to pay 7 percent for lumber, 7 percent for veneer, and 5 to 10 percent for wood panels.

"Such duties make imported timber an unattractive and expensive option... Add to that 10 percent VAT and all the red tape, and you end up paying 20 percent more for the wood," De Lange said.

Furniture-makers require around 300,000 cubic meters of wood every year, with Philippine mahogany accounting for 75 percent of this demand for wood.

Only about 25 percent of the demand for Philippine mahogany is being met by the local supply, he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 17, 2005
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 11:18,21-30
Gospel: Matthew 6:19-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not store up treasure for yourself here on earth where moth and rust destroy it, and where thieves can steal it. Store up treasure for yourself with God, where no moth or rust can destroy nor thief come and steal it.

"For where your treasure is, there also your heart will be.

"The lamp of the body is the eye; if your eyes are sound, your whole body will be in the light. If your eyes are diseased your whole body will be in darkness. Then, if your light has become darkness, how dark will be the darkest part of you!"

Commentary

More pragmatics: don't store up things here where it has a very limited shelf life! Put it where it lasts forever-where might that be? For Jesus' disciples we know that before we can come and follow him, we must take our excess and give it to the poor and lay up treasure in heaven and then come back, empty and open to Jesus' presence. Where's our hearts and treasure-in the poor where it is somehow with God! Everything in us, and our lives is of one piece. We cannot separate out our prayer from our relationships or our prayer from our economic policies or politics. Our eye must be filled with light-our hearts and consciences and souls must be drenched in the light, the Word of Jesus. We must constantly stand in that light and let it expose us, shine through us and illuminate us and our works.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

2 dead in Cambodia school hostage drama

4 Filipino teachers, 1 Filipino child among hostages released unharmed, says Manila

SIEM RIEP, Cambodia—One Canadian child was killed Thursday after police stormed an international school in the northwestern Cambodian town of Siem Riep where gunmen were holding around 30 people hostage, police said.

One of the four hostage-takers was also shot dead, they said.

Four Filipino teachers and a Filipino child aged three were among the hostages who were later released unharmed, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, quoting sources in the Philippine Embassy in Phnom Penh.

Police opened fire on the hostage-takers as they attempted to escape with several children in a vehicle after police entered the compound of Siem Reap International School, Pheun Arun, Siem Reap district police chief said.

"They took the children into the car and the police tried to shoot at the wheels and they tried to shoot back... We don't know which side shot the girl dead," he said.

He said one of the hostage-takers was shot dead and the other three were arrested. He said the group appeared to work for a Phnom Penh-based security firm.

An eyewitness outside the school compound said that she saw at least two children released after intermittent gunfire erupted around 2:30 p.m. She also said a Canadian child had died.

The hostage crisis began early in the morning when the four men believed to be armed with a single AK 47 automatic rifle, forced their way into the school in Siem Riep, home to the Angkor Wat temple complex and many foreign aid organizations, said the eyewitness.

A teacher and approximately 29 children aged between two and seven from 14 different countries were held during the seven-hour ordeal, said the eyewitness, an expatriate who asked to remain anonymous.

Armed police officers had surrounded the school and plainclothes officers in white T-shirts were seen entering the complex.

Shortly afterwards two gunshots followed by a long volley of gunfire lasting over a minute rang out. Intermittent gunfire continued until the saga ended.

The hostage-takers had demanded guns, grenades, $1,000 and a van to take them to Thailand, said the eyewitness.

The children were believed to be from Australia, Britain, Cambodia, Canada, France, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Switzerland, and the United States. *AFP*

Antibiotic wipes out elephantiasis worms

PARIS—British doctors say a cheap antibiotic wipes out the parasitic worms that cause elephantiasis, a disease that afflicts more than 120 million people in India, Africa and Southeast Asia.

Elephantiasis—lymphatic filariasis, as it is officially known—is transmitted by mosquitoes which pick up microscopic larvae from an infected human and pass it when they take a blood meal from another person.

The larvae then develop into thread-like parasitic worms that infest the lymphatic system, causing acute inflammation that makes the legs, groin, breasts, vulva or penis to swell grotesquely and painfully.

The mainstay treatment for elephantiasis comprises two drugs called diethylcarbamazine and ivermectin, boosted by another drug called albendazole.

But they are generally effective only against the worm in its earliest stages, not the adult worm which causes the symptoms. *AFP*

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MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2005

MANILA (MALATE) AND PASAY CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 6:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:45PM AND 3:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS MALATE 23J AND 14J

Portion of A. Mabini and San Andres Sts. from Remedios St. to Leon Guinto St. including Madre Ignacia St. (Carolina), Malate Catholic Church, Malate Catholic School and Anito Inn in Malate, Manila.

Portion of Leon Guinto St. and Pablo Ocampo Sr. Ave. (Vito Cruz) from San Andres St. to Taft Ave. including DLSU – College of St. Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, Algo Inn, Prudential Bank and Madison Square Condominium in Malate, Manila

Portion of Sandejas, 13 de Agosto, Taft Ave., San Juan and A. Luna Sts. from Pablo Ocampo Sr. St. to Villareal St. including Standard Service Center, Metrobank, San Isidro Catholic School, Wardley Bldg., RCBC, Manila Sanitarium & Hospital, Blanco Suites Bldg., Cartimar Market and Phil. Pasay Chung Hua Academy in Pasay City.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Malate substation.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2005

RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO, BARAS AND TANAY)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MASINAG 46WN

Portion of Marcos Highway from Sumulong Highway in Bgy. Mambugan, Antipolo City to and including Garden Cottages in Bgy. Cuyambay, Tanay.

Metropolitan Exec. Village, Maries Village 1 & 2, Tres Hermanas Subd., Crestview Subd., Oro Vista Royale Subd., Lumang Bayan Subd., Peñafrancia Hills Subd., Palmera Woodland Subd., PAGRAI Hills Subd., Heaven's Gate Memorial Garden, Cogeo Subd., Carolina Subd., Bently Park Subd., CMVC Plaza, NHA Bagong Nayon II Subd., Forest Hills Golf & Country Club, Kingsville Royale Subd., National Press Club Subd., Town and Country Hills Subd., Padilla Subd., Cherry Hills Subd., Violeta Complex, Park Hills, Kubling Kalikasan, Aqualand and Wrigley's Compound, Sitios Puting Bato, Cabading, Paenan, Kaysakat and Buso-buso; Bgys. Mayamot, Bagong Nayon, Sta. Cruz, Dela Paz, Inarawan, San Isidro and San Luis in Antipolo City.

Foremost Farms in Bgy. Pinugay in Baras.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Masinag substation.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, JUNE 20-21, 2005

MANILA (STA. MESA)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 11:45PM (MON., 06/20/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:15AM AND 5:30AM (TUE., 06/21/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT PANDACAN 18M

Portions of Valenzuela St., Old Sta. Mesa Road, Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. and Mangga Ave. from Meralco – Pandacan substation to near Mindanao Ave. including Piña Ave., Anito Inn – Sta. Mesa, Rose Garden Motel, Mercury Drug – Sta. Mesa, Fernando Supermarket, Ligaya Lodge, Gardenia Terrace Motel, Jollibee – Sta. Mesa, Chowking – Sta. Mesa, Bingo Manila, Prince Inn Hotel, Quality House, United Bethel Church and Pagoda Phils.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 06/20/05) AND 5:30AM (TUE., 06/21/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT PANDACAN 18M

Along Buenos Aires St. from near Mangga Ave. to D. Santiago St. including Pelaez, Altura Sts. and 7-11.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Buenos Aires St. in Sta. Mesa, Manila

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2005

QUEZON CITY (PROJECT 8)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 57E

Along Shortthorn, Grants and Benefits Sts. from Road 18 to Engineering St. including Road 20, Mendez Road, Remarville Subd., Rising Sun Village 2, Villa Matilde Subd., Villa Arca Subd., Deropa Subd., Paradise Subd. and GSIS Village in Bgys. Bahay Toro and Sangandaan.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 57E

Portion of General Ave. from Tandang Sora Ave. to and including Engineering, Legal, Premium, Branches, Auditing and Assistant Sts.; St. Patrick School, Mendoza Village, Lazaro-Soriano Cpd., Geronimo Subd., Philcom Subd., Barcelona Subd., Elegant Homes, Ofelia Village, Acuña Subd. and Real Village I & II in Bgys. Bahay Toro and Sangandaan

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Tandang Sora and GSIS Village in Project 8, Quezon City.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21-22, 2005

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE., 06/21/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (WED., 06/22/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 47YD

Portion of M. H. Del Pilar St. from near Armstrong Compound to F. Navarette St.

Portion of Arkong Bato Road (Palasan) from G. Feliciano St. to and including Kapitan Villita, P. Sevilla, Deato, M. H. Del Pilar Sts., M. S. Bernardo Compound, Deato Subd., Bonifacio-Mendoza Subd., Santos I & II Subd., Bgys. Bilog, Balangkas, Mabolo, Villa Pariancillo, Polo and Poblacion.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 06/21/05) AND 4:30AM (WED., 06/22/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 47YD

Portion of Arkong Bato Road (Palasan) from near G. Feliciano St. to F. Navarette St. including Luz Village, Fortune Village, New Menlo Subd., Palasan Subd., Cruz Subd. and Cordero Subd. in Bgy. Palasan.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Arkong Bato Road (Palasan) in Bgy. Palasan, Valenzuela City.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2005

CAVITE

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TMC-II 43WA AND 45WA

Portion of Governor Drive (Naic - Trece Martirez Highway) from Antero Soriano Highway to Gen. Trias - Amadeo Highway including Jea Steel Industries, St. Jude Parochial School in Bgy. Cabuco, Trece Martirez; Metro South Subd., Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Bgy. Manggahan, Gen. Trias; Bgy. Tanauan in Tanza; E. T. Echauz Farm, Ponce Farms, East Asia Paper Mills, Sabang Elem. School, East Asia Netcom Phils. and Bgy. Sabang in Naic.

Portion of Tanza - Trece Martirez Highway from Governor Drive (Naic - Trece Martirez) Highway to and including Bgy. Hulugan, Immanuel Beach Resort, Sta. Cecilia Subd., Retirees Village in Bgy. Biwas, Bgys. Sta. Mayor, Bega, Punta, Paradahan, Don Crispin M. Yumol Memorial School, Tanza National Trade School in Tanza; and Dela Costa Formation Center in Trece Martirez.

Portion of Gen. Trias - Amadeo Highway from Trece Martirez - Pala-Pala Highway to near Gateway Business Park including Gen. Trias Water District, Tung Tai Hsing Rubber Factory, Ever Stream in Bgy. Manggahan; Governor Hills Subd. and Cityland Green Breeze Village in Bgy. Biklatan, Gen. Trias

Portion of Antero Soriano Highway from Governor Drive (Naic - Trece Martirez Highway) to near Mulawin Road including SMC Premium Packaging, Amaya School of Home Industries, Amaya Elem. School, Shin Yee Metal, Lu Chu Industrial Estate, Phil Shin Works, Bgy. Halayhay, Coca-Cola – Tanza Warehouse, F. C. Castro Subd. and Cabba Subd. in Tanza.

REASON: Various maintenance work inside Meralco-FCIE substation and along Governor Drive in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, JUNE 22-23, 2005

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED., 06/22/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (THU., 06/23/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS U.P. II 11HU AND 12HU AND PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT MARIKINA 48VG

Portion of Katipunan Ave. from B. Gonzales St. to J. Escaler St. including A. Melchor, Esteban Abada, N. Reyes, C. Salvador, M. V. Del Rosario, Fabian Dela Rosa Sts. in Loyola Heights Subd., Miriam College, Eagle Star Bldg., Shoppersville Supermart and Burgundy Place Condominium.

Portion of Katipunan Ave. from Pansol St. to near Magsaysay Ave.

Along C. P. Garcia Ave. from Katipunan Ave. to and including National Computer Center, Phivolcs, National Institute of Geological Sciences, Hardin ng Rosas, Hardin ng Bougainvillea, E. Jacinto, E. Delos Reyes, Pardo de Tavera, and Aguinaldo Sts.

Along Quirino Ave., Pardo de Tavera and T. M. Kalaw Sts. from Katipunan Ave. to Lakandula St. including Science Teacher Training Ctr., Marine and Museum Bldg., College of Law, School of Economics, College of Business Administration, Benitez Hall, Gonzales Hall, Alonzo Hall, College of Home Economics, Sampaguita Residence Hall, Palma Hall and Quezon Hall in U.P. Campus, Diliman.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 06/22/05) AND 5:00AM (THU., 06/23/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MARIKINA 48VG

Portion of Katipunan Ave. from near Pansol St. to J. Escaler St. in Bgy. Pansol.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along Katipunan Ave. in Bgy. Pansol, Quezon City

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2005

CAVITE (BACOOR AND IMUS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT PALICO 39ZE - IMUS 35WK

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Palico substation to Meralco-Imus substation including Makro, Monti Textile Corp., Plaridel Subd., Villa Leticia, Lily Pla Subd., Villa Amparo, Villa Nicasia, Southern City Homes, Holiday Village, Independence St., Holiday Ave., Pacmac, Better Life Subd., Doña Dionisia Subd. and portion of Bgy. Tanzang Luma in Imus.

Along Nuevo Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to and including Tahimik St., Imus Public Market, Vina Village, Imus Institute, Imus Municipal Hall, Imus Parish Church, Gen. Garcia Park, Del Pilar Academy, Imus Museum - Camp Garcia, Imus Municipal Academy, Poblacion 4, Gen. Castañeda, Tirona, Gen. Satorre Sts. in Imus; Villanueva, Elises and Abella Sts. in Bacoor.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Palico substation.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005

MANILA (TONDO)

BETWEEN 2:00AM AND 4:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT PALOMAR 15L

Portion of C. M. Recto Ave. and A. Rivera St. from Meralco-Palomar substation to Sto. Cristo St. including Bilbao, C. Planas, J. Luna, Ylaya, P. Rada, Lakandula, J. Nolasco, Morga, San Ramon and Wagas Sts.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco - Palomar substation.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 2:00AM AND 4:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS IMUS 34WK AND PALICO 39ZE - IMUS 35WK

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco - Palico substation to Meralco - Imus substation including Makro, Monti Textile Corp., Plaridel Subd., Villa Leticia, Lily Pla Subd., Villa Amparo, Villa Nicasia, Southern City Homes, Holiday Village, Independence St., Holiday Ave., Pacmac, Better Life Subd., Doña Dionisia Subd. and portion of Bgy. Tanzang Luma in Imus.

Along Nuevo Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to and including Tahimik St., Imus Public Market, Vina Village, Imus Institute, Imus Municipal Hall, Imus Parish Church, Gen. Garcia Park, Del Pilar Academy, Imus Museum - Camp Garcia, Imus Municipal Academy, Poblacion 4, Gen. Castañeda, Tirona, Gen. Satorre Sts. in Imus; Villanueva, Elises and Abella Sts. in Bacoor.

Along Bayan Luma Road from Aguinaldo Highway to and including Bo. Manalo, Iglesia ni Kristo, Bgy. Alapan II, Bliss Housing in Gen. Trias; Mary-Cris Homes, Bo. Bucandala, Villa Felciana Subd. and Sarreal Subd. in Imus.

Along Malagasang Road from Bayan Luma Road to near Christian Joan School including Pag-asa Subd., Bgy. Malagasang I, Manuela Subd., MWSS, Mandarin Homes II, Hayag Motor Works and Machine Shop and Francis Rice Mill in Imus.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Aguinaldo Highway in Bacoor, Cavite.

BATANGAS (BATANGAS CITY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MAHABANG PARANG 32WZ

Bgys. Mahabang Parang, Concepcion and Bucal.

REASON: Transco line rehabilitation work along Batangas - Lipa 69 kV transmission line.

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, JUNE 25-26, 2005

RIZAL PROVINCE (BARAS, MORONG AND TAYTAY)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (SAT., 06/25/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (SUN., 06/26/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TANAY 11ZP AND 13ZP AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALAYA 44MM

Portion of T. Claudio St. from near Manila East Road in Bgy. Maybancal, Morong to J. P. Rizal and M. Golla Sts. in Baras Town Proper including FBD Industries, Bgys. Lagundi and Caniogan in Morong.

Portion of F. Catapusan St. from J. P. Rizal St. in Baras Town Proper to near Sampaloc Road in Tanay Town Proper including Hillside Homes Subd., Bgys. Concepcion, Evangelista in Baras; Tanay Municipal Hall and Bgy. Tandang Kabayo.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (SAT., 06/25/05) AND 5:30AM (SUN., 06/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALAYA 44MM

Along Pinugay Road from Alejo St. and Manila East Road to and including Milestone Main Farm in Sitio Ting-ting including Vera's Farm, Hi-Breed Farm, Sitios Tangan-tangan, Maynipay and Tamalan in Bgys. San Jose and Pinugay.

Portion of Raymundo, V. Javier, Feliciano, Javier and Kaytago Sts. from T. Claudio St. to and including Kaytago St., Pulong Kumunoy Elementary School, Pugala and Pinugay Roads in Bgys. Canlogan and Lagundi in Morong.

Portion of J. P. Rizal St. from near F. Catapusan St. to T. Claudio St. in Baras Town Proper

REASON: Installation of new pole along J. P. Rizal St. in Baras Town Proper, Rizal Province.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005

BULACAN (MALOLOS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TABANG 34YH

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco - Tabang substation to Bo. Tikay including First Bulacan Industrial City.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Palomar substation.

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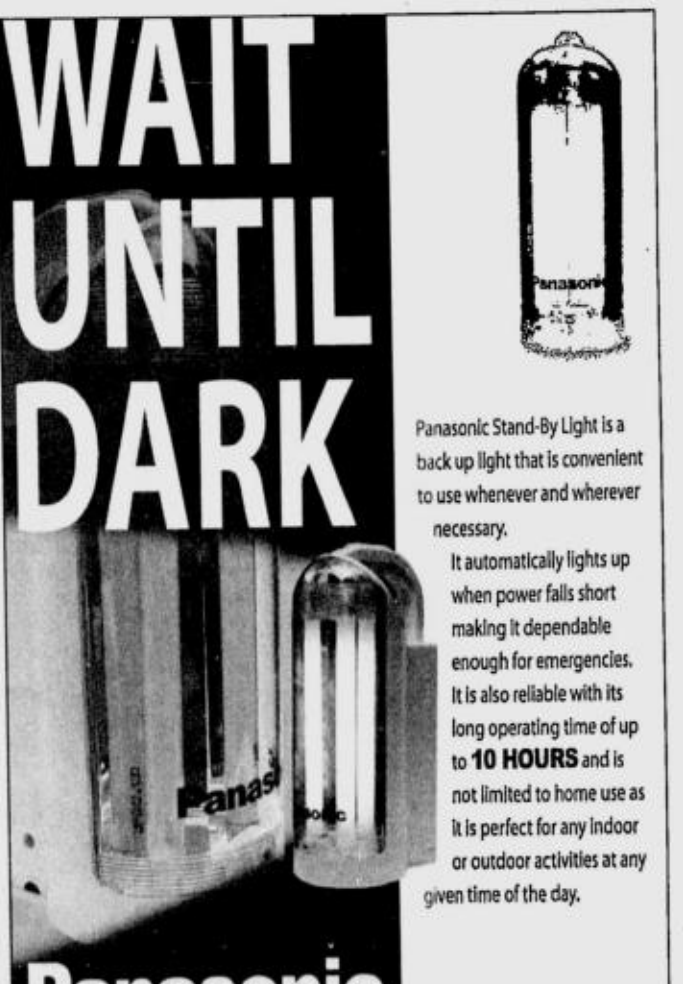

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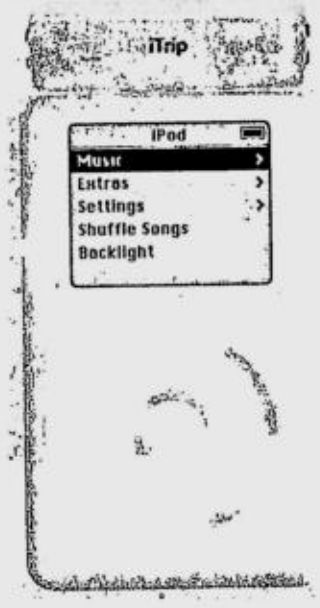

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Rafsanjani not sure of win in closest Iran election

TEHRAN—Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who wants better ties with the West, remained favorite for president on the last day of campaigning on Wednesday, but was far from sure of winning the closest election in Iran's history.

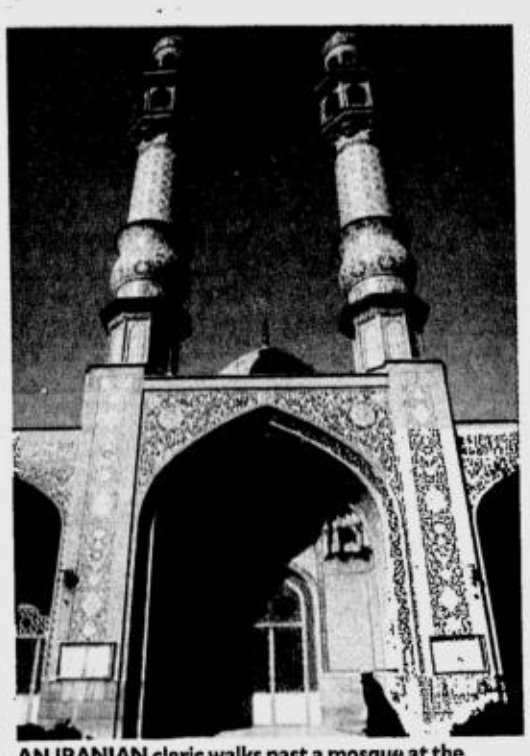
Friday's vote may determine how Iran handles its atomic standoff with the West and whether it sticks to the bumpy path of reform initiated by outgoing cleric Mohammad Khatami.

The campaign has broken taboos in the Islamic state with many of the candidates pledging to resume talks with Washington and some employing roller-blading girls to hand out campaign leaflets to appeal to young voters.

Rafsanjani, 70, bidding to regain the post he held from 1989 to 1997, told CNN on Tuesday the time was right for a "new chapter" in Iran-US ties, but said Washington should gain Iran's trust by unblocking billions of dollar of frozen assets.

Polls in the country of 67 million people show the canny pragmatist, who masterminded arms-for-hostages swaps with the United States in the 1980s, remains short of the 50 percent support he needs to avoid a run-off against his closest rival.

His nearest challengers are reformist Mostafa Moin, 54, who has pledged to tackle human rights abuses, and conservative Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, 43, an ex-police chief rumored to enjoy the backing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.



AN IRANIAN cleric walks past a mosque at the Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani's seminary in Qom, 120 km south of Tehran, June 16. Iranians voted on Friday in the ninth presidential election since the 1979 Islamic revolution. REUTERS

An upset Moin victory could not be ruled out and the outcome of a Rafsanjani runoff against Moin or Qalibaf, possibly on June 24, would be hard to predict, analysts said.

Iran's clerical leadership wants a high turnout to bolster the Islamic state's legitimacy at a time when US troops are stationed in neighboring Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Iranians should cast their votes to protect the country, preserve its interests and inject fresh blood into the veins of this system," Khamenei said on Wednesday.

Voters like 36-year-old architect Maziar, keen to avoid a reverse of the limited social freedoms Iranians now enjoy after eight years under Khatami, said they would vote for Rafsanjani on Friday but then swing behind Moin if he forced a run-off.

"We don't want to return to the past and have a president who will lead us into confrontation with the West," he said.

"The important thing is to keep the hardliners out." *Reuters*

Australian scientists make blood from human stem cells

MELBOURNE—Australian scientists say they have found a way to make blood cells in volume out of human master cells, which could eventually lead to production of safe blood cells for transfusions and organ transplants.

Synthetically produced red blood cells would, in theory, overcome the concerns about dangerous infections that can be transmitted from blood donors to patients worldwide.

But researchers said it would probably take years for scientists to get to the stage where blood cells could be made in large enough quantities for transfusions.

"What would be nice is if it opens the possibility for the future of making large quantities of blood cells in a controlled environment which could be used to treat patients," said Andrew Elefanty, who led the research at Monash University in Melbourne.

Writing in the US journal Blood, the researchers said they were able to turn human embryonic stem cells into red and white blood cells using a system that makes more blood cells more rapidly and more safely, with fewer animal ingredients, than others have done.

"The other thing we think is important is that the way we've made the cells develop into blood is something which could be applied to other types of cells as well," Elefanty told Reuters.

The team's system was able to stimulate the stem cells specifically into becoming red or white cells.

Elefanty said the research showed that the path that human embryonic stem cells take in becoming blood cells was similar to experiments done in other animals, like mice.

While other researchers have used serum from cows as the medium for growing cells, the Monash team used a cocktail of salt and electrolyte solutions with amino acids and fats.

The system was not completely free of animal proteins, as the albumin was purified from cows. The team plans to use synthetic albumin eventually when it becomes available. *Reuters*

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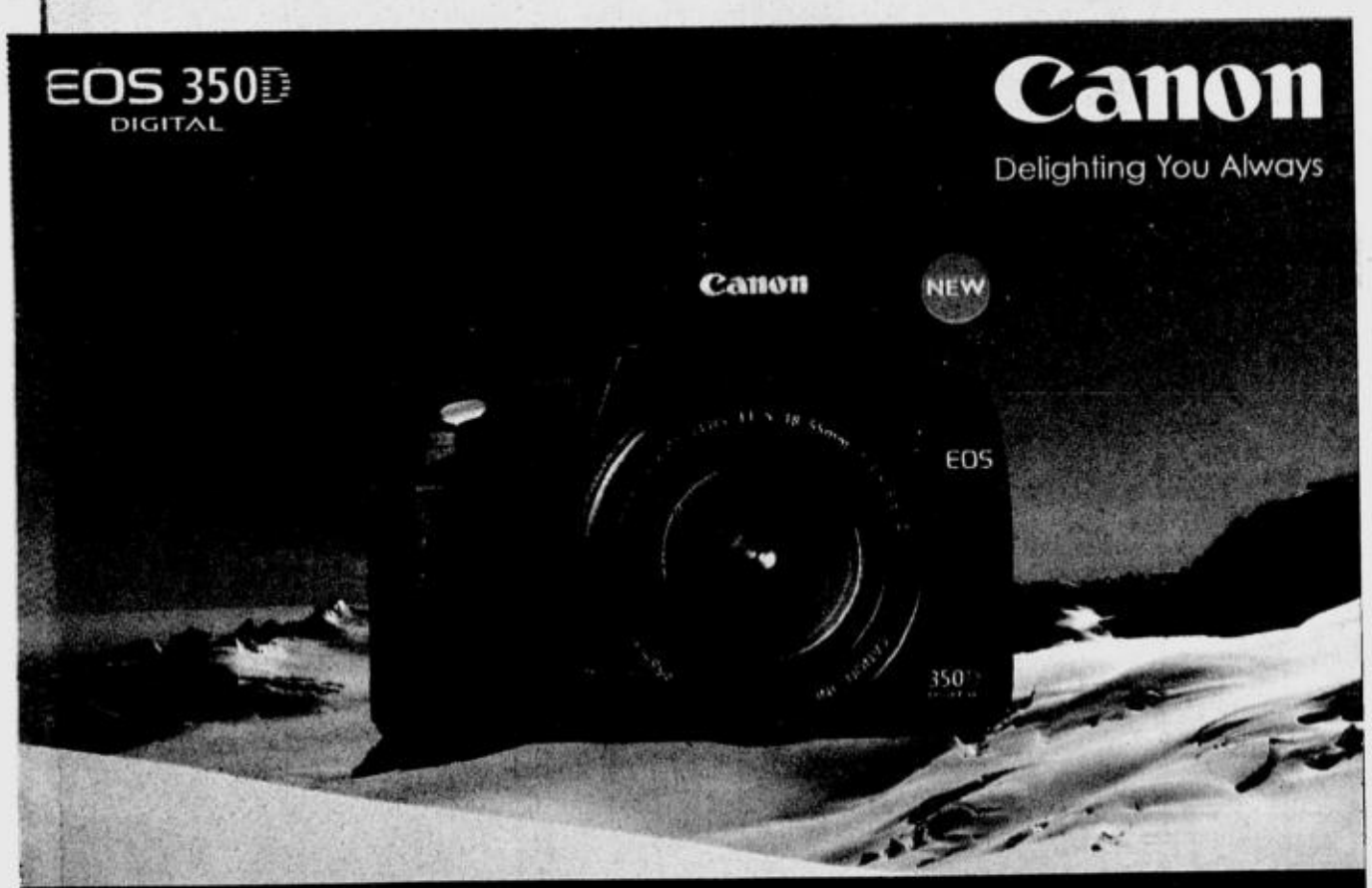

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Ex-world's richest man admits to insider trading

TOKYO—Railroad and hotel magnate Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, once listed by Forbes as the world's richest man, pleaded guilty to charges of insider trading and falsifying financial records at the opening of his trial Thursday, in a case that highlights Japan's moves toward tougher corporate governance.

TSUTSUMI AP

The high-profile trial of the former Seibu Railway Co. chair in Tokyo District Court underlines the sometimes-shady dealings that fueled Japan's rags-to-riches growth after World War II—but also the country's push toward greater corporate accountability.

The bespectacled Tsutsumi, 71, entered the courthouse somberly, wearing a dark business suit. A court official confirmed that the session ended after about two hours and that Tsutsumi pleaded guilty to the charges.

Tsutsumi apologized for what he had done and acknowledged he had hurt shareholders, the quasi-public NHK TV reported.

"There is no mistake" to the charges, he was quoted as saying.

Over the decades of Japan's modernization, Tsutsumi was respected as a charismatic billionaire who made his fortune on a nationwide hotel chain, major railway, and resort development.

But since his arrest in March, the Japanese media have portrayed him as a fallen figure of the past, whose rise to glory was based on methods and standards that are no longer relevant to rapidly globalizing Japan.

At the opening of the trial, prosecutors said Tsutsumi conspired with several executives to falsify Seibu Railway's 2003 financial statement, putting the stake of Kokudo Corp., his privately owned company, in the railway far lower than actual numbers, according to the prosecutors' office.

Having a handful of top executives owning too much was a violation of Tokyo Stock Exchange rules. Seibu has acknowledged the deception, and the stock exchange delisted the company in December.

Prosecutors said Tsutsumi feared the consequences of getting delisted and wanted to sell the Seibu stocks last year but didn't want to take losses because their price was low. AP

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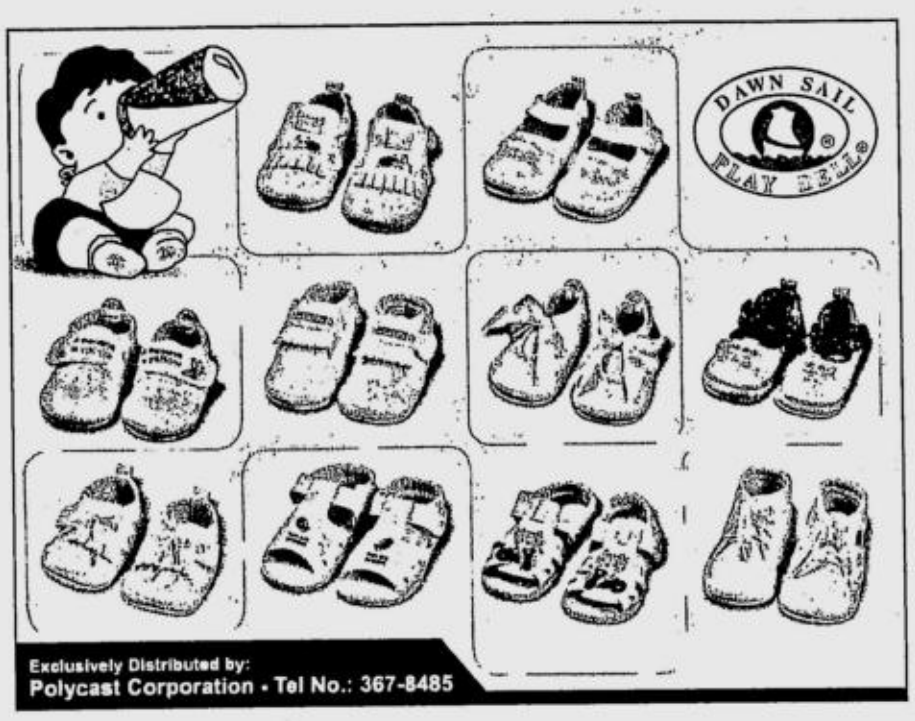

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Repression

EDITORIAL

ON THURSDAY a mobile patrol unit arrested three young people pasting posters on an island along Kalayaan Avenue in Barangay Central, Quezon City. The Central Police District of the Philippine National Police initially charged them with violations of Article 153 of the Revised Penal Code, or tumults and other public disturbances, and the anti-littering ordinance. As preparations were being made to pay the P1,000 bail initially recommended by a city prosecutor, it was learned that the charges had been elevated to inciting to sedition, a crime punishable by up to six years imprisonment and a fine of P2,000. The three eventually posted bail.

What did the posters say? They had the words "President Evil," and "The Evil Continues." At the bottom of the posters was written: "Sa Hunyo 30, mamamayan, lumaban ka (On June 30, citizens, fight for your rights)!" The posters portrayed President Macapagal-Arroyo as Valentina, the nemesis of Darna. This, apparently, now counts as sedition.

What separates those posters from posters that have come before and during past elections, including the posters of the Left? Nothing. Much of what was once considered par for the course in a democracy—the lampooning of officials, the pasting of posters, the discussion of issues—has now been classified as dangerous, illegal and punishable. Our older readers will recall the Japanese Occupation, when it became patriotic to flout the regulations of the authorities. Our younger readers will recall martial law, when it became a civic duty to read banned books, pamphlets and magazines, and when it was considered good citizenship to watch videotapes of Japanese inquiries into Ninoy Aquino's murder. The government of our country is putting its citizenry in the same position again.

Does a government have a right to defend itself? Of course. However a distinction needs to be made between defending the authority of the state in the interest of those who hold positions of authority in the state, and defending the state in the interest of the people, to whom everything—state, status, position—is owed. There is a difference between using the law to uphold the law, and using the law as a means of intimidating citizens, whose safety, property and peace of mind the law is ultimately supposed to protect.

We can no longer deny that it has become government policy to use the law to stifle not only peaceful dissent, but the basic birthright of a democratic people to engage in public debate and discourse. The law has been invoked by the justice secretary, the National Telecommunications Commission, the National Bureau of Investigation. The Palace itself may not be speaking darkly of legal consequences for anyone who dares to inquire into matters that might reflect badly on the President, but it doesn't have to. The authorities have all been brought forward in full battle array, to remind everyone just who, exactly, has might, if not right, on its side. We fail to see any sign of a democratic and healthy confidence in media and the public that should be the hallmark of our government.

The greatest danger to stability is presented not by those who would use all means, fair or foul, to destabilize a government, but by a government that displays a fundamental insecurity when it comes to public inquiry and media probing. Some will say we in the media are whining out of a misguided belief that free speech is absolute. But we say they are wrong in assuming that the power of the state should be used, as it is being used, in such a cynical manner.

Cynical is the only way to describe the way media have been reminded to obey the law, when what is at question is the possibility that the defenders of the law have been the first to break it. The country is concerned with allegations that those holding public office have not held it in a manner that inspires trust; and yet, instead of trusting media and the people to find out the truth, anyone expressing a contrary opinion to that held by the Palace is now threatened with being branded as seditious.

There is a reason people always consider those who are quick to accuse others of sedition as tyrants: Those who invoke the law on sedition have all too often proved to be tyrants.

Why is GMA so scared of the tapes?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is really in (pardon the expression but it is the most apt description available) "deep shit" over the blockbuster tapes that are now the talk of the town. She has to speak up. She cannot continue to be coy and silent about them if the charges her government has filed and is planning to file against lawyers Samuel Ong and Alan Paguia are to stick. The National Bureau of Investigation has filed a charge of inciting to sedition against Ong and Sandra Cam and the Department of Justice is reportedly going to file charges of wiretapping and possession of tapped tapes against Ong and Paguia.

Wiretapping constitutes an invasion of privacy because the wiretapper eavesdropped on the private phone conversation of the aggrieved party. But who is complaining that his or her privacy was invaded? Former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano already said he was not the "Gary" caught on the tapes. So his privacy was not invaded.

President Arroyo has not admitted that she is the "ma'am" in the tapes. It has been more than a week now since the existence of the tapes was revealed to the public, but she has not said anything about them one way or the other.

The phone pals are caught on the tapes allegedly plotting to cheat in the last presidential elections. If the President denies that she is the "ma'am" there, then she committed no crime. But that also means her privacy has not been invaded and no wiretapping has been committed. But if she admits that her conversation was indeed tapped, then that means she also admits that she plotted to steal the presidency from her rivals. Therefore, she probably is not really the duly elected President. And even if she is, she committed an impeachable offense.

If nobody is complaining that his or her conversation has been tapped, then there was no wiretapping and Ong and Paguia cannot be guilty of it.

In the first place, they could not have done the tapping themselves. They don't have the technical expertise, nor do they possess any wiretapping equipment. They both claimed somebody gave them the tapes. Paguia did not say who, but Ong said it was TSgt. Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). If that is true, then it is Doble who is guilty of wiretapping, not Ong.

And if the Isafp really did the tapping, then somebody higher up ordered it to do so. The Isafp will not do such a thing on its own.

So who ordered it to do the wiretapping? It must be somebody really big. Could it be the AFP chief of staff? Or the defense secretary? Or could it be the President herself?

But why would the President order her own conversations bugged? But maybe she ordered the bugging not of the Malacañang telephones but that of the Commission on Elections, specifically that of Garcillano.

But why Garcillano? Maybe Malacañang did not trust him. Maybe he was suspected of doing a double-cross, secretly consorting with the opposition or at least a rival candidate. Maybe. And when "ma'am" called to tell him to give her at least a one-million edge over her nearest rival, she forgot that Garcillano's phone was bugged. So "ma'am" was caught in a trap of her own making. It is eerily similar to President Richard Nixon incriminating himself in White House tapes he himself had ordered and being forced to resign because of them. Isn't that poetic justice?

How about the charge of "possession of wiretapped tapes"? First, you have to prove that there are wiretapped tapes. If nobody is complaining that his or her phone was tapped, then there cannot be any wiretapped tapes. How can anybody possess something that does not exist?

What about the tapes that Paguia, Ong and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye presented to the media? But were they really tapped? Has anybody proven that? Remember, nobody has yet complained that his phone was tapped. For all we know, the tapes that the trio showed were blank.

But what about the conversations that thousands of people have already heard? Who has proven that they were stolen conversations? For all we know, they were recordings of conversations between mimics Willie Nepomuceno and Ate Glow playing a big joke on all of us. Maybe it is a promotional gimmick for the coming anniversary dinner-show of the Kapihan sa Manila (the original Kapihan is 20 years old this year) at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion on June 27. And what a successful gimmick it is. (Don't miss the show. The mystery of the tapes will be revealed.) Maybe it is all a big joke, who knows?

But what if it is not a joke but the real thing? Why is the Arroyo administration so afraid of people hearing the contents of those tapes that government agencies have warned broadcast stations against airing them? The justice secretary even threatened with prosecution people who listen to them. And—get this—he even warned that people would be prosecuted if they so much as talk about the tapes among themselves.

Isn't that curtailment of the freedom of speech? Why does the justice secretary go so far as to violate the constitutional guarantee of free speech just to prevent people from talking about the contents of the tapes? What is in them that they are so afraid of?

How about the charge of "inciting to sedition"? Inciting to sedition means urging the people to overthrow the government, to revolt. Nobody heard either Ong or Cam say that. What Ong did was to ask the President to resign. That is not inciting to sedition, that is friendly advice. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also said that. Does that mean the DOJ will also charge Pimentel with inciting to sedition?

Catch 22: Legality without legitimacy

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE QUEEN reigns upon the thinnest legal veneer, haunted by the olden curse: "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." And oh, what a tangled web, indeed.

Amid talk of a political bombshell incriminating the President, her spokesman, Ignacio Bunye, tries to defuse the bomb—and drops it himself. Here are the tapes, he says, but don't you believe them.

The next day, the President's own attorney-general threatens him with criminal charges for publicizing the fruits of an illegal wiretap, and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita no sooner disowns Bunye's statement, saying he acted on his own.

Bunye impugns the credibility of the tape, saying it is a tampered copy, and holds up the original—thus offering the smoking gun on a silver platter, solving the opposition's problem of finding the true record of the illicit conversation about rigging the polls, spoken in voices much like the President's and an election commissioner's.

As he compares the original and the doctored copy, Bunye confirms that that is the President's voice on the tapes indeed. But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the nation's top law enforcer, has already threatened to prosecute anyone for the illegal wiretap and must now prove that the conversation was recorded without the speakers' consent (an element of the crime under the Anti-Wiretapping Law). So would he ask President Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to fess up?

That is why Bunye next issues his retraction. Now, he says, he is no longer certain it was the President's voice, just "98 percent sure"! So the Palace stays clear of the anti-wiretap law—and will prosecute National Bureau of Investigation whistle-blower, Samuel Ong, not for wiretapping but for inciting to sedition. But while this solves the problem of what to do with Ong, it doesn't solve the problem of how to block the tapes as evidence, because that would again call for the anti-wiretap law.

Ong says that the bugging was done by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. From a narrow legal view, Ong was good news for the Palace: that would raise the bar of inadmissibility because the bugging was done by the state and the unlawful search and seizure clause would then apply. Yet from a broader political view, it would be so damaging for the commander in chief to be spied upon by her own spooks.

So the government announces proudly that Ong is lying, and presents TSgt. Vidal Doble to prove that it was all an elaborate set-up. Purely from an evidentiary standpoint, that Palace gambit is a gift to the opposition: once again, the search and seizure clause cannot be used to bar the tapes.

Finally, Malacañang, still hopeful it can block the evidence, dares the opposition to file impeachment charges, one case where the accused looks more gung-ho than the accusers. So sue her, taunts Malacañang, and stop relying on rumor and speculation.

The next day, Palace loyalists ban the broadcast of the questioned tapes, thereby pushing the debate back to—rumor and speculation.

We have come to this: that legality can triumph only at the expense of legitimacy. Are the tapes truly inadmissible in evidence? The Anti-Wiretapping Law bans the use of any bugging device to record "private communications" without the consent of the parties, and considers that record inadmissible in any proceeding. The law was sponsored by the venerable Sen. Lorenzo Tañada in order to protect a citizen's right to privacy, the sacred right "to be let alone."

Let us set aside the minor problem that neither "Ma'am" nor "Garci" have surfaced to prove non-consent. The Supreme Court, through Justice Vicente Mendoza, has made the distinction between public and private communications, and allowed an unconsented recording into evidence (the conversation was "public" because it was made openly before many others, and can very well make that distinction in this case), though the Court didn't, in another case, saying that the "nature of the conversation is immaterial." After all, the subject of the tapes was the elections, and the speakers purportedly public officers. Contrast that, for instance, to the indubitably private talk in Britain's "Camillagate" tapes. Charles: "The trouble is I need you several times a week." Camilla: "Mmm, so do I. I need you all ... the time." Charles: "Oh, God. I'll just live inside your trousers .... It would be much easier."

However, the Court, in another decision, accepted an eavesdropper's testimony because the parties had used a phone with an extension line, and could claim no reasonable expectation of privacy. Malacañang can find comfort in this, because Ma'am's chosen medium was a cell phone, and though the missive travels through publicly owned airwaves, experts say the message is encrypted precisely for privacy. But even that is small comfort in light of the Court's reasoning: Can "a caller by merely using a telephone line ... force the listener to secrecy no matter how obscene, criminal, or annoying the call may be[?] .... Surely the law was never intended for such mischievous results."

The bar of inadmissibility is not insurmountable (pardon the lawyer's double negative). President Macapagal-Arroyo must step forward and tell it like it is. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel has asked her to do a Richard Nixon and resign. But it seems she prefers to do a Michael Jackson, and regain in the courts of law what she has already lost in the court of public opinion.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@zpdee.net

Revolutions can't be rushed

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

HAVING failed to mount a big push last weekend to mobilize people power to try to topple President Macapagal Arroyo on the strength of the tapes revealed by Samuel Ong, former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director, her opponents have stepped up pressure to force her to resign by demanding that she break her silence on the authenticity of the tapes.

The demand seeks to paint her into a corner where she loses no matter what she does. She is damned if she says the tapes, which are claimed by her enemies as evidence of "massive" cheating in the 2004 election, are spurious and damned if she admits it is her voice speaking on the tapes. So far, the President has stonewalled, leaving it to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye to explain. He has said, "We should go by the rule of law. We can't just give in to what everybody wants even if it is against the law."

Bunye's statement was made in the context of the argument that it is improper for the President to comment on allegations based on an allegedly illegally obtained telephone conversation between her and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Regime opponents have found in the President's silence another issue to escalate pressure on her to quit. This move apparently seeks to uncover more scandals that can be used to incite people to go to the streets and her resignation or to mobilize mass demonstrations that might bring military intervention.

The issue of the illegality of the tapes and authenticity of the conversations found on them are better left to lawyers to argue over and to the courts to decide, since it is beyond my competence to make authoritative judgments. My concerns lie in explaining the implications of the political moves of the regime's opponents and the administration's responses to them and in illuminating where these developments are leading the nation to.

Since the events of the last weekend, the impasse between the regime and its enemies has remained a "phony" war, perilously waiting for another and more explosive scandal that the opponents hope could add momentum to their plan to bring an early downfall of the administration. This is the opposition's preferred option instead of driving the cases against President Arroyo toward the impeachment arena and away from the streets.

The big problem for the opposition is how to sustain pressure on the President and give the campaign momentum following the failure last Saturday and Sunday of their move to make the press conference of Ong serve as the spark that would to ignite mass demonstrations on the scale of the 1986 and 2001 people power uprisings. The weekend events were a moment of truth for her opponents, and a revelation.

The Ong tape presentation was expected by the regime's opponents to send thousands of angry people on a rampage at Edsa to demand the resignation of President Arroyo. The plan fizzled out. Much to the disappointment of the coup plotters, the public who watched the incident on TV saw a pathetic demonstration of a few hundred people at the gates of San Carlos Seminary, where Ong had sought sanctuary. An attempt to stage a mass demonstration at Liwasang Bonifacio on the eve of Independence Day last Sunday, in which a couple of thousands assembled, was unsuccessful and supported the assessment that the time had not arrived for another Edsa uprising.

It may be argued that it takes more than the tapes and the testimony of a parade of whistleblowers at the congressional hearings implicating Mikey Arroyo and Iggy Arroyo in *jueteng* pay-offs, let alone the strong conviction and boiling anger of regime opponents, to rouse people to march a million strong on Edsa, as what happened in 1986 and 2001. The failure of the planned mass protests to take off during the weekend showed that the regime's opponents had indulged in exuberant expectations and calculations of the right moment to launch another people power.

There were critical elements in 1986 and 2001 that made Edsa I and Edsa II successful and which were missing in the impulsive attempt to spark an uprising last weekend. These include first, the explosive brew of corruption and other issues against the Marcos regime and the Estrada regime that raised the level of unrest and anger of the people to incendiary level. The metaphor is you cannot spark a forest fire during a wet season. What happened or didn't happen last weekend showed that the situation was not dry for ignition.

Second, not many people will rush to the streets on behalf of Samuel Ong and Sandra Cam.

Third, Edsa I had a rallying point on the other side, Cory Aquino, and in Edsa II, Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, by virtue of constitutional succession.

Fourth, Cardinal Jaime Sin was the overarching Church leader with influence over the flock to call them to arms to march by the million in the streets. There is no Sin anymore. Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Bishop Deogracias Iniguez et al., are autonomous decentralized diocesan church leaders with limited influence defined in their dioceses. They don't have the moral authority of Cardinal Sin. So the Church does not have a single voice like it did when it railed at Marcos and Estrada. Now the bishops can only fire scattered shots at Ms Arroyo.

Never forget that political explosions have long gestation periods. It took more than three years after Benigno Aquino's assassination for Edsa I to explode. It took more than a year for the jueteng powder keg to explode after Chavit Singson's exposé. One important lesson to remember is that revolutions of any type cannot be rushed. They take their own time and moment.

This is cold comfort for President Arroyo. She has to do something more than keep quiet over the tapes and sacrificing her relatives to be able to survive.

Don't blame the Church

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

UNDERSTANDABLY piqued that their "scoop" on former NBI deputy chief Samuel Ong fizzled out, dzBB commentators Arnold Clavio and Ali Sotto have been milking Ong's departure from San Carlos Seminary for all the human interest and public sympathy they can generate.

On one recent show, Ali even likened Ong's search for sanctuary to the Virgin Mary's and St. Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem. Like Joseph and Mary, Ali intoned, Ong had knocked on the doors of different religious institutions (before taking shelter at San Carlos, he also sought the protection of the Dominicans in Sto. Domingo Church), only to be turned away because "there was no room at the inn."

To which all I have to say is: "Gimme a break!" Whatever your sympathies for Ong, you must agree that St. Joseph—or especially the Virgin Mary—he ain't!

But seriously, in the harsh light of Monday morning, the media quarterbacks, with their usual cast of politicians and analysts, in their search for a scapegoat and an explanation for what happened or didn't happen, trained their sights on the Church. Which is funny, because you'd think the fairly obvious "villain" in the desired scenario would have been the government, specifically the Arroyo administration. But since the President has chosen to keep her mouth shut and "deadma" the brewing scandal, besides which pinning the blame on GMA for yet another transgression is getting tired, the priests and bishops at San Carlos, along with Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, have come in for their share of opprobrium.

* * *

THEIR sins of omission and commission are supposedly legion. They drove away Ong ("*pinagtabuyan*" is the term used) from San Carlos, even if Ong was not "ready" yet to leave, thereby placing him in harm's way. They played into the hands of Malacañang (some say they may even have colluded with authorities) when they accompanied Mrs. Doble to San Carlos and forced the Isafp agent to surface.

But even more damning, in the eyes of Ong's sympathizers, is the silence of the Church authorities, save for a few who have come out squarely on Ong's side. It's clear the people around Ong, including those who rushed to his side when media got wind of his misadventure, had been hoping that the Church leaders would summon the faithful, thereby triggering a new show of "people power."

Clearly not even all the media attention and all the protesters were enough to summon the multitude, which the organizers of Ong's scenario had hoped the Church men would do for them. Then again, why would Archbishop Rosales, and the other bishops and priests of Manila, feel obliged to do them this favor when they had treated the Church—symbolized by San Carlos—so shabbily?

* * *

MEDIA coverage of the standoff at San Carlos failed to emphasize enough the fact that it is primarily a seminary, an institution for the formation of future priests. As such, foremost in the minds of those in charge of San Carlos was the safety of the seminarians and priests, and other personnel housed within the compound, which counts five buildings within its walls.

Bishop Bernardino Cortez, the auxiliary bishop of Manila in charge of seminaries in the archdiocese, has explained to the media that the welfare of the seminarians was their foremost consideration when they asked Ong to vacate the premises. And if Ong was so concerned about his safety, the bishops offered to surround him as he left the compound and put their own lives at stake to protect his. And they did.

And for this they get calumny and charges of complicity with government.

In the first place, the archdiocese had nothing to do with the entire Ong scenario. After Ong was rebuffed from Santo Domingo, San Carlos loomed as the next favored choice. (Though we must ask, if Ong was so fearful for his life, what was he doing shopping for the proper locale for a sanctuary, preferably in a place where the masses could gather, and preferably along Edsa?) He was allowed in reportedly as the "guest" of a sympathetic bishop residing at the Bahay Pari, a temporary home for priests in need of respite from their responsibilities. No one, not even the rector of the seminary who had all those young seminarians under his care, was consulted or told about Ong's presence. Neither, it turns out, were they told about Agent Doble who, Bishop Bacani now says, had been holed out at San Carlos some three hours before Ong himself arrived.

* * *

IT should be pretty obvious by now that Ong's bid for his 15 minutes of fame was not as spontaneous as they make it appear, a desperate bid for protection against the evil forces bent on suppressing the truth about the "Gloriagate" tapes. It appears there was an organized attempt to milk the revelations of all the instability and public anger they could provoke.

It's hard to explain why public ire hasn't been roused as Ong and Friends had expected. Lord knows there's enough provocation, given GMA's silence, Secretary Raul Gonzalez's blustering, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco's posturing, and the overreaction of police. I think it's because we're caught in the trough of a national depression, and we can't even summon the requisite moral outrage, much less act on it.

Also plausible is that the discredited crew of adventurists and opportunists who flocked to Ong's side like maggots around a rotting piece of meat only turned off the populace. One piece of advice: The next time you want to summon "people power," make sure Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Rez Cortez and Nino Muhlach are not among the lead players.

We may not be able to explain why "Gloriagate" hasn't erupted into popular discontent. But it's pretty unfair to blame Church men, who've kept their own counsel so far, for our own silence and indifference.

The Aguinaldo house

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOW that Flag Day and Independence Day are over, it would be a good time to visit the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite. While this is one of the best maintained national shrines run by the National Historical Institute, it is best to drop by after the place has been spruced up for the annual June 12 celebrations.

I first visited the mansion two decades ago, with college classmate Lisa Ongpin. We drove off from school one afternoon and were met by the curator, Linda Aguinaldo, who was related to Emilio Aguinaldo and thus, not only made us welcome but provided some anecdotes that were not in our history books.

The Aguinaldo house is best known for the so-called "Independence balcony," which is the focus of the annual June 12 program. During our visit, I did not realize that the balcony was not there in 1898 and that Aguinaldo actually waved the flag from a window of the house, that now has a balcony. I also did not realize that the balcony is supported by a great white concrete carabao, that has its tongue sticking out rudely at visitors. Seeing this rude carabao made me feel right at home.

The carabao also figures in one of the oddest pieces of Philippine furniture I have ever seen: Aguinaldo's desk which has a very elegant Art Deco design but the seat has a backrest with a wooden carabao's head.

While we now acknowledge the carabao as one of our national animals, our textbooks do not tell us that this beast of burden figured prominently in some of the battles of the Filipino-American War. We have seen an illustration in Harper's "History of the War" showing the enemy being attacked by carabaos. The accompanying article said that in campaigns in Luzon, when the enemy was pursuing the Filipinos, carabaos in the field would attack Americans. To explain this behavior, it was suggested that the carabaos were averse to the dark blue and khaki uniforms of the enemy (in the same way that bulls hate red, though we are also told bulls are color blind). One other theory was that the carabaos did not like the smell of Americans or that they were attacked because the carabaos did not like soldiers who were not circumcised.

Whatever the reason, Aguinaldo honored the carabao by putting images of them as decoration throughout the house.

Another thing that intrigued me were the numerous secret passages in the house. There were cabinets that could be turned to reveal a hidden passage. The heavy granite kitchen table actually hid a hole that led to what was supposedly an air-raid shelter under the house. While peering into the darkness, I was told that this hole in the kitchen floor led to a long tunnel (or tunnels) that ended up either in the church of Kawit or the parish cemetery. These days the supposed tunnels have been sealed off and we cannot confirm the terminal points.

In Aguinaldo's bedroom, one of the floorboards opened up to reveal a staircase that led to the private one-lane duckpin bowling alley under the house and an adjoining swimming pool. This makes one wonder what kind of person would want or need such a home with numerous escape routes. During the Revolution, Aguinaldo was probably in flight most of the time and this impacted on his personality in such a way that made these secret passages in the home normal for him.

Of course, being a national hero's home, there were a lot of personal items and relics: musty old uniforms, rusty sabers, outdated guns and even his wife's formal ternos. There was a display case filled with different military insignia and regalia that had been stolen twice but fortunately returned. One of the odd exhibits was a huge but smooth boulder on which the President reputedly rested after his long and arduous trek from Malolos, Bulacan, to Palanan, Isabela. This historic rock that was once honored by the President's behind is still on display there.

Then there were two small bottles (formerly in a display case in the basement, but now moved to a medicine cabinet on the second floor) containing a small piece of gauze and part of his pickled appendix. We were told that Aguinaldo endured an appendectomy in a government hospital at the turn of the last century. The operation was successful, but after a few days he still complained of pain. There was no way of checking him out internally with the modern instruments we have today so what they did was to open him up again and to their horror and embarrassment they discovered that one of the surgeons had forgotten a towel inside Aguinaldo. (Most doctors I consulted about this lapse said that a towel was better than having a scalpel left in your innards.) To make amends, the Philippine Assembly gave Aguinaldo a pension for life.

If you visit the Aguinaldo Shrine today, ask the tour guide to open the medicine cabinet that is filled with the distinctive blue bottles that once contained the eye solution he used daily. In that cabinet, you will see the two relics of Aguinaldo's appendectomy: part of the towel that was left in him and also his pickled appendix. These may seem like very macabre relics and unimportant, even trivial in the larger context of Philippine history, but they do draw a crowd and make us realize that Aguinaldo is not just a textbook character but was human, too.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aoocampo@ateneo.edu

My father's Shanghai

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

TO MANY Filipinos, Shanghai is rapidly becoming a new tourist destination, known for its good food and good shopping. To my parents and myself, it is a second home, a city whose sights and sounds we are more familiar with than those of Fujian, where my grandparents first emigrated.

How did this all happen?

My father was born and raised in Davao, but at age 16, a maternal uncle, who had become a prosperous businessman in Shanghai, sent for him. My father had never been out of Davao until that trip, not even to Manila. He arrived in Shanghai on the eve of the Pacific war, and left in 1947, shortly after the war and before the communists took over.

Those years left their mark on my father, but it was during a recent trip when I realized, too, how his stay in Shanghai coincided with history, through World War II and into a new era where nations, including China, were to free themselves from the yoke of colonialism.

As we walked and drove through Shanghai's streets, often accompanied by his cousin, my Auntie Lily, their animated conversations in a mixture of Putonghua (Mandarin) and Shanghainese helped me to understand why the Chinese sometimes refer to history as *gu jin, gu* meaning ancient and *jin* contemporary, the past flowing into the present.

No dogs and Chinese

I'd be hard pressed to think of a more appropriate example of this "past-present" notion of history than Shanghai. Both in the past and in the present, Shanghai represents China's love-hate relationship with the West.

Through the 19th and 20th centuries, China had been carved up by foreign powers, and Shanghai epitomized the country's butchering, the city divided into different "concessions": the French, the British, the American, and later, the Japanese. Residents enjoyed immunity from Chinese laws and in a park within the French concession, there was said to be a sign that read: "No dogs and Chinese allowed."

But the Chinese had a grudging respect as well for the West. The uncle who took care of my father in Shanghai had studied in the Philippines, in Jose Rizal College, and could speak English fairly well. His children all received English names first (for example, Lily) with the Chinese names selected to sound like the English (thus my Auntie Lily's Chinese name reads Li Li).

My father's memories of Shanghai include those of glitz and glamour, of high-rise department stores and hotels. It was a city that never slept, with its many nightclubs and bars. My father never forgot a Filipino musician named Pampi Villar and the way he played "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" at the Club Mandarin. (In the 1960s, my father again ran into Pampi Villar at the Camp John Hay's officers' club. Yes, Pampi was still playing the organ.)

My father does remember a darker side to all this glitter. There a street where he and his classmates would walk through with trepidation because it was lined with young girls waiting to pull men off the streets and into brothels. The girls were desperate because if they didn't get a customer for the night, they risked being beaten up by their *mama-san*.

Global capitalism brought in unimaginable wealth to Shanghai's foreign and Chinese businessmen, but there was also a dark underside of corruption, poverty and squalor. The term "shanghaied" came about from the way men were kidnapped from the countryside to add to Shanghai's armies of coolies, a term derived from the Chinese words *ku* (for bitter) and *li* (for labor). The "bitter labor" didn't go too far for survival. My father remembers seeing corpses in the streets on winter mornings, people who had literally frozen to death in the night.

20 million yuan

Because Shanghai was the center of imperialism, it also became a hothouse for radical nationalist politics. The Chinese Communist Party was founded in Shanghai, and in my father's reunions with old classmates from St. John's University, he would sometimes whisper to me, "I never knew he was communist." It was dangerous to be a communist with the police routinely raiding homes and dragging out suspected party members, and executing them in the street.

Eventually, my father left Shanghai and joined the Chinese Army. He returned as a soldier, part of the contingents sent in to retake Shanghai from the Japanese. He stayed on after the war until 1947, only marginally aware of the continuing tumult as the communist underground expanded. The Chinese communists took over in 1949.

Shortly before my father left Shanghai, his uncle gave him 20 million yuan, which in those inflationary times was worth about $200. My father gave 15 million yuan to a fellow Chinese-Filipino from Sulu, who had fallen on hard times. Four million went to buying things to bring back to Manila and the balance of one million he spent dancing the night away at the Club Mandarin, yes where Pampi Villar played. He returned to Manila with P2 in his pocket.

What was it worth then? My father explained that he could use the P2 to buy himself and a lieutenant named Eddie Ramos a hearty meal: 70 centavos for a bowl of noodles and 30 centavos for siopao.

Kuang Chi

My father did not get to see Shanghai again until 1993. He has returned several times since and each visit brings about both nostalgia and awe.

It is still a city of great contrasts—and irony. The house in which the Chinese Communist Party was founded is now the center of Xintiandi, a complex of restaurants and bars that are favorite watering holes for Shanghai's expatriates and yuppie Chinese.

It was in Xintiandi where my father spotted a young Filipina in a restaurant and asked her, "*Kababayan*?" Shanghai has many Filipino expatriates now, and they're no longer limited to being musicians. You find teachers, doctors, bankers, hotel managers, even journalists.

During his most recent visit, my father took time out to visit a park set up in the center of the city to honor Xu Guangqi (also spelled Hsu Kuang Chi, from which Xavier School in San Juan takes its Chinese name). Xu was from Shanghai and converted to Catholicism in 1603 after meeting the Italian Jesuit Mateo Ricci. Xu was a mathematician and astronomer fascinated by the West (he translated Euclid's Elements into Chinese), but who maintained his Chinese identity all through his life, which included holding several high ministerial positions.

I suspect the park is China's way of telling the world she's opened up again to the West, but without forgetting the past. In recounting stories of Shanghai's past, as my father does, there seems to be an obsession to emphasize that Shanghai's many scars, from colonial occupation, a world war and civil strife, are in fact China's scars as well. The Chinese have long memories and as they open up to the West, Shanghai again being the main showcase with its mag-lev trains and skyscrapers, they do so on their own terms, and in their own time.

Everybody knows about 'jueteng'

IT seems that nobody from the Arroyo administration knows how *jueteng* operates in the country. In interviews, not one of them seems to have heard of the Pinedas, Sanchezes, Singsons, the Magbuhoses, the Imperials and so many others who were on the "jueteng lord watchlist" of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police decades ago.

It's so disgusting to hear Rep. Mikey Arroyo of Pampanga (also Sen. Lito Lapid, who was once the governor of Pampanga) telling us that he does not know whether Bong Pineda is involved in jueteng in his province. All the police officers—the NBI and the Department of Interior and Local Government officials—were also tight-lipped about jueteng operations.

Maybe, it would be better to ask elementary and high school students, jeepney and tricycle drivers, vendors and the jobless and illiterate. I'm sure they know the answers that local officials and the police claim not to know.

But the jueteng lords, police and local officials do know each other very well. They should be men enough to admit the contribution of their offices to jueteng's success.

The people are not really after their loot from the illegal game. They only want an immediate stop to the unbridled greed of those in power. Many people are hungry and some are dying because of poverty, and they are waiting for the help that President Macapagal-Arroyo promised them. The other Arroyo triumvirate could yet serve their country and people, but not by enriching themselves at the expense of others.

—DONDIE ALEJANDRO, redlioness97@yahoo.com

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GMA's best performance yet

THE TIME has come for President Macapagal-Arrroyo to make the difficult but right decision: she should act like a stateswoman by resigning now.

Her credibility rating, the lowest for any Philippine leader since 1986, the *jueteng* scandal and the tape on the "stolen presidency," among others, should convince Ms Arroyo to leave Malacañang. Thus, she will show that she has the best interest of the country in her heart. By stepping down, she will avoid a bloody revolution.

Resignation from the presidency is certain to be Ms Arroyo's best performance.

As a former Malacañang reporter of the pre-martial law Manila Times, I know that President Marcos was surrounded by "yes" men. This led to his downfall because he was not told the truth. I am certain that President Arroyo is also surrounded by "yes" men. This makes her blind to the realities outside Malacañang.

In the final analysis, the buck stops at her Malacañang desk.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com

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Tale of the tapes

I TOTALLY agree that the issue is whether President Macapagal-Arroyo did order Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to manipulate election results or not. But first, we have to ascertain whether the tapes are original, not spliced or doctored. I don't think the administration has custody of the "mother of all tapes." I fear, if it is not real as purported, we'll never see it appear.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Right now the propaganda value of the different versions cannot be underestimated. Depending on your political inclination, you will believe the tape that suits your orientation.

If the conversation really did occur, the second question is, how did the manipulation occur without the knowledge of the watchers of both parties? Garcillano could not have done the whole manipulation by himself. It had to involve people at the grass-roots level. Namfrel, the poll watchers and other bodies, will have noticed any discrepancy between local, regional and national figures. We then need somebody like those "jueteng" whistle-blowers to come out and accuse Garcillano of pressuring them to manipulate results.

Garcillano has long been an overestimated operator. Pimentel blamed him for his loss in a previous senatorial election.

Philippine media, unfortunately, have become too shallow and unimaginative. They unwittingly allow themselves to be a tool of propaganda. Having been exposed to American media for the last two decades, I know that American newsmen go beyond hearsay and propaganda and investigate to find the deeper truth. That's why newsmen from the New York Times and Washington Post are feared and at the same time respected by leaders of whatever political persuasion.**—Jonathan Imperial, 12035 Longbrook, Dr. Houston, TX 77099**

* * *

Just like everybody else, the "Gloriagate" scandal puzzles me. I wonder when the Gloria CDs will be out in the market, just like any other CDs, so I can grab a copy now.

But the thing that worries me most is how I will pass my subjects this school year so I can graduate on time and suit up for a job in order for me to help my family. Bottom line: Amid all the political turmoil, life has to go on. Yes, this might be apathy.

I wonder why some politicians are wondering why there are no huge movements by the Filipino people in response to the recent scandal. The apathy of the Filipinos could have been an offshoot of open-ended dirty politics exposing unresolved scandal after scandal. Dirty politics, like repeated false alarms, must have consumed every ounce of vigilance left in the Filipino.

Honestly, this lowly sort of politics has reduced a seemingly grave political scandal into a mere form of entertainment. Political mudslinging has turned into something which is nothing different from a prime-time soap opera. It has become just like a PBA finals series.**—Crizel Alcones, 4731 Peralta St., Sta. Mesa, Manila**

* * *

The President doesn't need to speak anymore....The presidential spokesperson spoke and it's loud and clear that the voice belongs to her.**—Carlos Bernardo, 94-1052 Mahua Place Waipahu, Hawaii 96797**

* * *

No one is above the law. If the President does not speak, it is the public that suffers from economic, financial and social dilemmas. Certainly, even the President should care for the interest of the public/country.**—James Lorenzana, 1415 N. McCarthy, Wisconsin, USA**

* * *

In the midst of the alleged tampering of votes in favor of President Arroyo, rumors are rampant that another people power will take place to oust another alleged corrupt leader. My two cents' worth in all this: ENOUGH ALREADY!

The alleged tapes do not even amount to a direct order for vote tampering. In addition, they have no judicial or administrative bearing because of their illegality. No one in both the House and the Senate was able to identify the parties speaking on the tapes, and even the alleged keeper of the tapes denied that he ever had them.

With the media firestorm the past two days, how will the current events affect the over 20-year struggle of the country to lift itself off the ground? Just when the economic situation is improving, comes this almost obscene grab for power from all sides. Get your facts straight, do it quietly and quickly and stop enticing the Filipino people into another round of power grab that will further bring us chaos, hunger and poverty. ENOUGH! We Filipinos are tired.**—Natalie Bisnar, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada**

INQBOX

Question of the Week

What do you think should President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo do in the wake of the jueteng and audio tape recording scandals?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wil each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! Ü*

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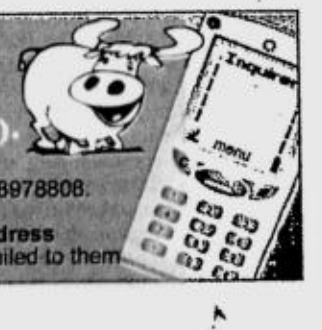

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'Jueteng' thrives in Batangas, Laguna

CALAMBA CITY—With the media attention somehow diffused by scandals involving the alleged wiretapped conversations of President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election officer to rig the presidential elections, the illegal numbers racket silently made a comeback in two provinces of Calabarzon early this week.

A ranking police intelligence officer, who agreed to talk on condition of anonymity, said "jueteng" managers resumed "regular operations" as early as Tuesday in the third and fourth districts in both the provinces of Laguna and Batangas.

Most towns in these areas are usually in upland districts.

He said several towns in Laguna had, in fact, made a "trial draw" two days ago.

"The operators checked if the police would launch operations after them. But not a single raid happened. *Ibig sabihin*, ok *na ulit*," the source told the INQUIRER.

He, however, maintained that most jueteng draws are still in the form of guerrilla operations.

The official said jueteng operators quietly resumed operations as the controversy regarding the taped conversations of Ms Arroyo bumped off the news regarding the illegal numbers game.

The source, who admitted receiving protection money from jueteng operators, said the resumption of jueteng in the area had a "blessing" from national police officials in Camp Crame.

"Jueteng will not exist in a certain area without the blessing from Camp Crame," he said, adding: "*Buti na nga lang at pumutok itong panibagong* scandal *kaya medyo lumamig na ang isyu ng* jueteng."

The resumption of jueteng, he added, was likewise prompted by "insistent public demand."

"*Mga tao na mismo ang nangungulit na magbola na uli. Wala kasing ibang* entertainment *doon kundi* jueteng," the source claimed.

He said jueteng returned in the areas operated by a certain Totoy Haruta in Laguna and Gov. Armand Sanchez in Batangas, especially in Tanauan City and Sto. Tomas.

Sanchez, in earlier interviews with the INQUIRER, brushed off allegations that he was involved in the illegal numbers racket.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, the Calabarzon police, brushed off the claims of the INQUIRER source.

He said if jueteng had indeed made a comeback in the region, they would easily detect it. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Jueteng' men besiege gov with job pleas

ILAGAN, Isabela—Leaders of 2,000 "jueteng" managers and collectors displaced by the stop in jueteng operations in the province have asked Gov. Maria Gracia Padaca to provide them jobs to save their families from hunger.

The jueteng workers said they would stage a protest rally in front of the provincial capitol to bring their concerns to Padaca.

"We are starving to death. Yet, the governor does not give us alternative employment. There are very few job opportunities because we lack education. The governor should heed the call of poor families, for humanitarian reasons," a jueteng bet collector said.

Jueteng operations in the province stopped last month following reports that relatives of President Macapagal-Arroyo were receiving jueteng payoffs.

The collector dismissed reports that their planned protest action would be financed by jueteng operators and supported by some local officials.

"[We are doing this] on our own initiative. Governor (Padaca) should give us what we want. We are hoping that she would not turn deaf and blind to our plight," he said.

But Padaca said she would not yield to pressures and would continue her fight against jueteng.

She said giving the jueteng workers jobs would imply that she was tolerating the illegal numbers game.

"If that happens, jueteng will never be stopped. It is like giving a thief a job in exchange for a promise that he will not do it again," she said.

Padaca said the provincial government could not give all of them jobs.

She said jueteng operators could have planned the protest action so the burden of helping the displaced jueteng workers would fall on her shoulders.

She called the move as "obviously well-planned" and had the "blessing" of some local officials whom she did not identify.

"I do not fear being unpopular to a certain group of people. [When I ran for governor], I did not only work to attain [the province's] freedom from political patronage but also to stop that wrong culture, to reject graft and corruption," she said.

She warned the displaced jueteng workers that they would be arrested should they continue with their protest action. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gun raps filed vs defeated bet

CANDON CITY—The police have filed illegal possession of firearms and explosives charges against a defeated gubernatorial candidate in Ilocos Sur and six others following a recent raid on a farm in this city.

Members of the Abra Criminal Investigation and Detection Team and the Candon police found a hand grenade, a .38 cal. gun, an M16 rifle, bullets and antigovernment documents in the rented rooms of three suspects at the RVA Farms in Barangay Calaoan here on April 22.

The police said the guns were supplied to the group by former Ilocos Sur Board Member Efren Rafanan, a defeated gubernatorial candidate in the province.

But Rafanan dismissed the charges, which were filed before the city prosecutor's office here on May 31.

"[These were] fabricated and unfounded charges meant to destroy my name and honor," he told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

Rafanan said he had never been to or seen the area where the firearms were found.

Charged with Rafanan were Mike Velasco, Joel Arquero, Mike Carreon and suspects identified only as Ka Roman, Ka Resty and Ka Jessie.

The complaint said the farm was being used as a base of the members of the Rebolusyonaryong Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB).

The police believed the group was responsible for several murders in Abra and parts of the Ilocos region.

Police said the guns were not licensed. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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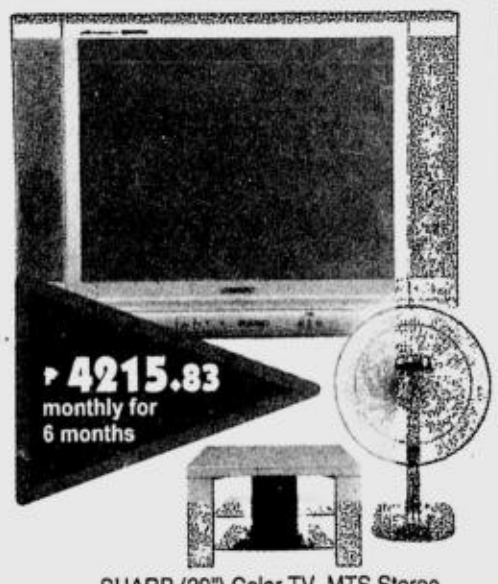

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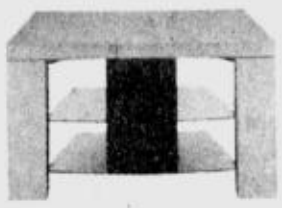

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Benguet farmers say checkpoints sources of 'tong'

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The province's traders and farmers are asking the government to protect local vegetables to ensure that the industry remains competitive.

In a meeting with Vice President Noli de Castro at the vegetable trading post here last week, they said their income from the sale of vegetables in Metro Manila has dropped due to the high cost of toll rates and the absence of a trading post for local vegetables.

They also assailed the presence of at least 12 checkpoints set up along the Baguio-Metro Manila route that, they said, had become a source of extortion among law enforcers.

Benito Hipolito, president of the Benguet Truckers and Traders Association, said the new toll rates at the North Luzon Expressway have sliced a big chunk of their earnings.

"Before, a truck pays only P123 in toll fee. Now, the fee has gone up to P519," Hipolito told De Castro.

Hipolito said 150 to 200 vegetable trucks from Benguet enter Metro Manila daily and drivers have complained of the rates.

He said the smooth transport of vegetables to the metropolis had also been affected by the load limit set by the NLEx operator and the presence of policemen who extort money from vegetable trucks.

He said the NLEx has set an allowable load limit of 13,500 tons per truck.

"The NLEx should allow the trucks to reach at least 15,000 to 17,000 tons because this is the normal transport weight of our vehicles," he said.

"The present load limit prevents us from regaining our investments while pouring in more transport cost."

Hipolito also assailed the government's failure to stop certain checkpoint personnel who flag down trucks to ask for money.

He said the checkpoints are located in Rosario, La Union; Barangay San Miguel in Tarlac City; and several areas in Metro Manila—Quirino Avenue, Bonifacio-C3 in Caloocan, Baclaran in Parañaque, Makati City, Magallanes, Edsa-Pasay City, Osmeña Highway, Plaza Dilao and Alabang.

These checkpoints are manned either by personnel of the Traffic Management Group, Land Transportation Office, Philippine National Police or the Metro Manila Development Authority who ask for P100 to P500 per truck before allowing it to pass, Hipolito said.

Jose Andiso Sr., president of the Benguet Federation of Farmers, also asked De Castro to relay to the Department of Agriculture their request to establish a vegetable trading post for the province's vegetables in Metro Manila.

He said the main vegetable market for direct buyers is in Divisoria but the market has become crowded, leaving a small room for traders to deal their products for a higher price.

De Castro said the traders' woes could be addressed through a dialogue with NLEx, the DA and the PNP.

He said former PNP chief Edgardo Aglipay had assured the traders in an earlier meeting that the checkpoints would be dismantled and policemen engaged in mulcting would be reassigned.

"Nakakapikon na rin yan (It's distressing to hear). Don't worry, I will bring this matter again to the attention of the concerned authorities," De Castro told the traders. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

UNITY VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

These women became "living suggestion boxes" for citizens who were beleaguered by the scandals affecting the government. They marched during the Baguio Independence Day parade as living flags uniting the country.

Rice experts say funds for research lacking

DAVAO CITY—Put your money where your mouth is, rice experts here are telling the country's top policy makers in a recently launched book "State Intervention in the Rice Sector in Selected Countries."

"I wish our political leaders will set aside putting up waiting sheds, for a while," Jessica Cantos-Reyes, one of the authors of the book, told reporters here.

"Instead, let's put up facilities that will lessen post harvest losses which eats up as much as 48 percent of our farmers' harvest," Cantos-Reyes said.

Published by the South East Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) and Rice Watch and Action Network (R1), the new book urged the government to increase public spending on rice and take an active role to boost rice production as what Asia's top rice exporting countries have done.

Crucial

Cantos-Reyes said the government's support for the rice sector is crucial, since rice is the people's staple food, hence, critical in addressing food sufficiency.

Instead of spending on rice imports, the government should set aside more funds for rice research and production.

"State intervention was a key element in increasing rice production in Asia's top rice producers," co-author Elenita Dano said in a briefing on her book, "Attaining self-sufficiency in the Philippines, Lessons from Other Countries."

The new book tries to draw lessons out of the early experiences of rice exporting countries like Thailand, Vietnam, United States and China, and rice importing ones like Indonesia and Malaysia by compiling rice industry situations and analyzing agricultural policies in the six countries.

According to the study, strong state intervention on seed technology, irrigation, fertilizers, post harvest handling, credit, research and others played a critical role in increasing rice production, something which has not been done yet in the Philippines in a large scale.

Heavy investments

The book cited how Thailand's rice production outpaced population growth since the mid-1990s largely because of heavy public investments on road networks and irrigation.

While Filipino farmers are encouraged to abandon traditional rice varieties and depend on hybrid seeds they have to buy from multinational companies, Thai farmers have relied on improved local and traditional rice varieties that commanded high prices in the market, Dano also noted.

Cantos-Reyes said the Philippine government's thrust to promote high-yielding hybrid rice at the expense of the traditional rice varieties, slowly limits farmers' access to seed production.

"To exclude poor farmers in the rice production equation is a hindrance to a self-sufficient economy," said Cantos-Reyes.

China also poured in heavy investments on research and support services to boost its rice sector. It also gave subsidies to farmers and the domestic seed industry, according to the study.

$1 billion

In the United States, public spending on the rice sector amounted to as much as $1 billion a year while Vietnam's massive public spending on irrigation, reclamation of unused resources and land improvement, and direct fertilizer subsidies to farmers never failed to boost rice production.

The SEARICE book recommends strong state intervention, particularly in the crucial areas of research and development, infrastructures, farm input subsidies and marketing aspect in the Philippine rice sector. *Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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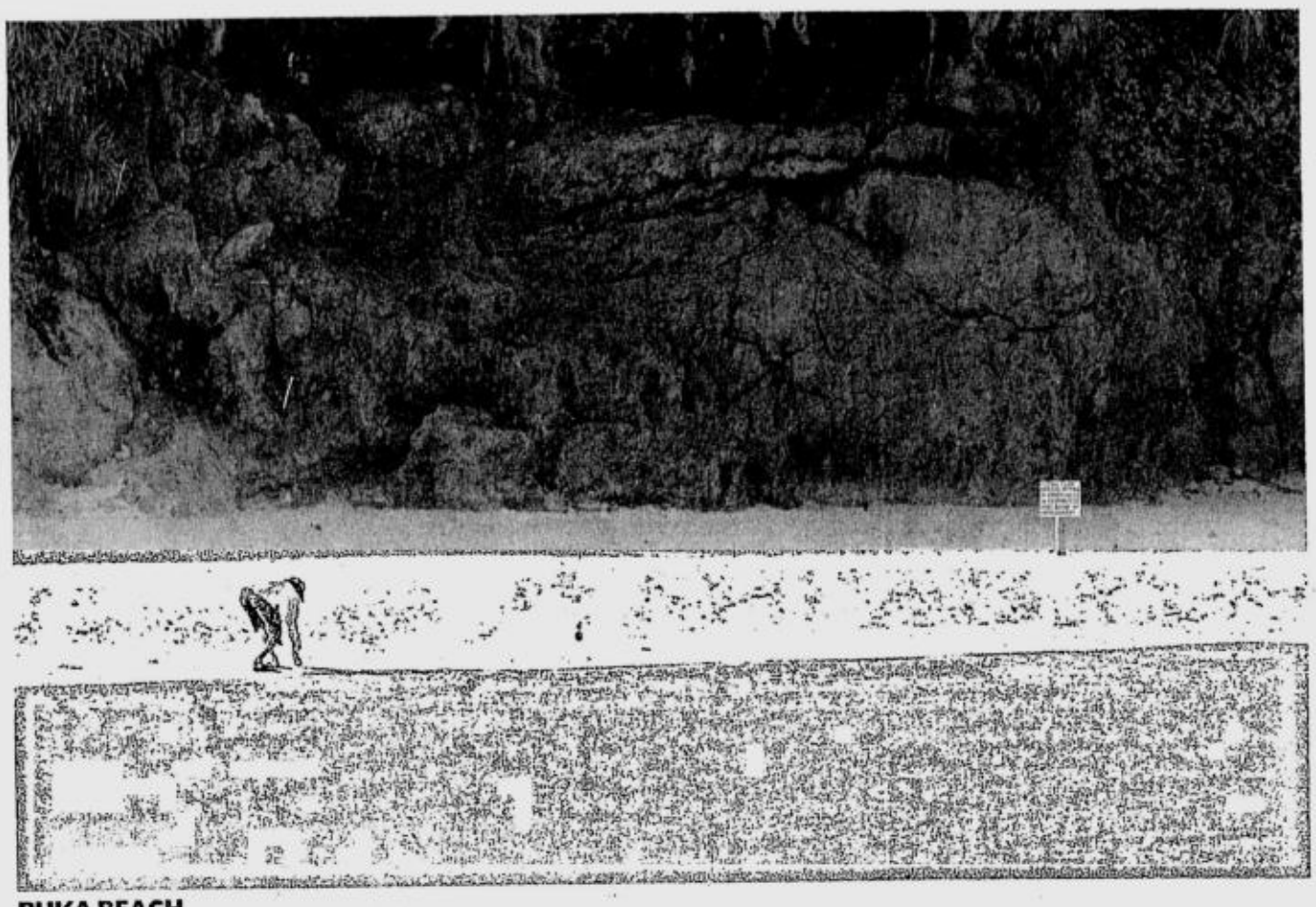

PUKA BEACH
A woman picks shells and pebbles on the shore of Puka Beach in Boracay despite a sign posted prohibiting the extracting and collecting of sand or pebbles from the beach. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Bacoor folk seek GMA help in cityhood bid

BACOOR, Cavite—Saying their town had been lagging behind their neighboring cities because of its fiscal woes, Bacoor residents led by Mayor Jessie Castillo sought the assistance of President Macapagal-Arroyo in their bid for their town to become the latest city in Cavite province.

During the inauguration of the Mayor Arsenio Castillo Coliseum in Barangay Molino II on Wednesday, Castillo asked the President to help them expedite passage of a House bill for Bacoor's cityhood, which is now pending at the House of Representatives after passing the second reading.

The bill, filed by Buhay Rep. Rene Velarde, would make this coastal town the fourth city in the province after Tagaytay City, Trece Martires City and Cavite City.

"What we are asking is (for the President and our congressmen) to help the bill pass beyond the second reading so that we can let the people decide whether they like Bacoor to become a city or stay as a municipality," Castillo said in his speech.

He said the cityhood of Bacoor would definitely help them address their financial problems.

He said despite its large population of over 500,000 people and vast territory, Bacoor continues to lag behind the nearby cities of Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Parañaque in terms of economic development and fiscal autonomy.

Because of its proximity to Metro Manila, Castillo said their town should be compared to the Metro Manila cities and not to the other towns of Cavite.

"The problems we have here are not as big as those in other Cavite towns. What we have is probably more serious than in Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Parañaque," he said.

Despite this, Castillo said their yearly P300-million budget is way behind the annual funds of these three nearby Metro Manila cities.

"More than 90 percent of our town is already residential. So there's already no room for industrialization and commercial establishments. Now, where will we get additional source of funds?" he said.

If Bacoor turns into a city, he said they could more than double their annual budget.

He said their cityhood would mean they no longer have to give P50 million a year to the provincial coffers.

Their annual internal revenue allocation from the national government would also increase by P150 million.

"Aside from these, we also stand to gain from the annual P100-million congressional funds," he later told the INQUIRER.

During the event, members of the senior citizens of Bacoor asked Ms Arroyo to bankroll the P1.6-million fund they need to start their "Botika ng Bayan" project.

A 7,000-strong tricycle drivers' association likewise asked the President to give them P1.3 million for their cooperative for tricycle spare parts.

Looking radiant despite the recent supposed plots to unseat her, Ms Arroyo gamely acceded to the requests and personally handed a P3-million check to Castillo. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Militant leader hurt in attack

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) coordinator in Eastern Samar survived an assassination attempt by two unidentified gunmen on board a motorcycle along Quarry District here on Wednesday night.

Castor Gamalo, 39, who is also regional chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, suffered a bullet wound in the upper back. Another bullet grazed his right cheek.

Bystanders brought Gamalo to the hospital where doctors declared him in stable condition.

Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma, police regional director, said Gamalo was walking to his home at about 6 p.m. after attending his class at the Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) where he handled social science subjects.

When he was about 100 meters away from the school, one of the two men on board the motorcycle shot him and then sped off.

Witnesses said the gunmen were wearing crash helmets.

Coloma told the INQUIRER that the police were studying two possible angles in the shooting.

One was the victim's involvement in the militant organization. The other was Gamalo's work as the president of the EVSU Faculty and Employee Association.

Gamalo, a former regional coordinator of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, has been leading rallies for several days now against EVSU president Bonifacio Villanueva.

The group of Gamalo has accused Villanueva of committing "irregularities" and of playing favorites among faculty members.

Villanueva could not be reached for his comment. He earlier denied allegations hurled against him by Gamalo's group.

Coloma has formed a task force headed by Supt. Arnulfo Cruz, Tacloban police chief, to identify and arrest the perpetrators.

"We assured the family of the victim that we will do our best to solve this crime," he added.

REINFORCEMENT VAL HANDUMON
Policemen from Bulacan, Bataan and Pampanga arrived Friday night to take a nap while waiting for orders at Camp Crame.

DPWH team focuses probe on anomalies in 3 bridge projects

TUGUEGARAO CITY—An investigative team from the Department of Public Works and Highways started reviewing three bridge projects in Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya following charges of overpricing and contract rigging hurled by a group of DPWH employees.

Rodolfo Alday, DPWH regional director, said the team sent by Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. started inspecting the Siffu and Casili bridges in Isabela, and the Maddiangat bridge in Nueva Vizcaya.

Complaints

The P46-million Siffu bridge in Roxas town was among the projects ordered inspected by Ebdane after he received complaints that the concrete girders used were overpriced.

The contract for the P20-million Casili bridge was said to have been altered so a P2.1-million Isuzu Trooper that was included in the project as a service vehicle would appear as privately owned.

The DPWH team, led by engineer Elpidio Zabat of the DPWH internal audit team, on Thursday conducted an inventory of the materials used in the rehabilitation of the Maddiangat bridge in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya.

Arrest

This came after the arrest of three DPWH employees who were caught selling steel beams to junk shops in nearby Solano town.

The charges were contained in a complaint sent to Ebdane last month by members of the DPWH Regional Office Rank-and-File Association (Rafa).

They accused Alday of being the brains behind the alleged anomalies.

Documents on the Siffu bridge project showed that the 54 girders (concrete beams) cost about P353,000 each. A DPWH official said the original cost was only P250,000.

The employees also claimed that Alday tolerated the theft and sale of bridge steel parts by some employees.

Denial

Alday denied the allegations, saying these were concocted by a group whose members were not employees of the DPWH.

He presented a manifesto signed by 158 of about 300 employees in the regional office disowning the charges.

Alday also showed a written explanation of Jose Tobias, project engineer of the Siffu bridge project, justifying the cost of the concrete girders.

He said documents would show that the Isuzu Trooper had already been turned over to the government. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DENR execs turn to communities to protect forests without funds

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Now that their operations are being hampered by budget cuts, environment officials here are hoping that local officials and community leaders will get involved in efforts to protect the province's forests and watersheds.

Manuel Pogeyed, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said they were determined to suggest and impose measures to address the province's dwindling forest covers and water resources.

For a start, Pogeyed said his office would ask local officials in Benguet's 13 towns to pass an ordinance that will require future couples to plant trees first before exchanging marriage vows before the mayor.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources would also require those with tree cutting permits to plant 50 seedlings for every tree cut.

"The ordinance would remind town officials of their responsibility in helping save the environment and at the same time make the husband and wife conscious of their own role in saving forests," he said.

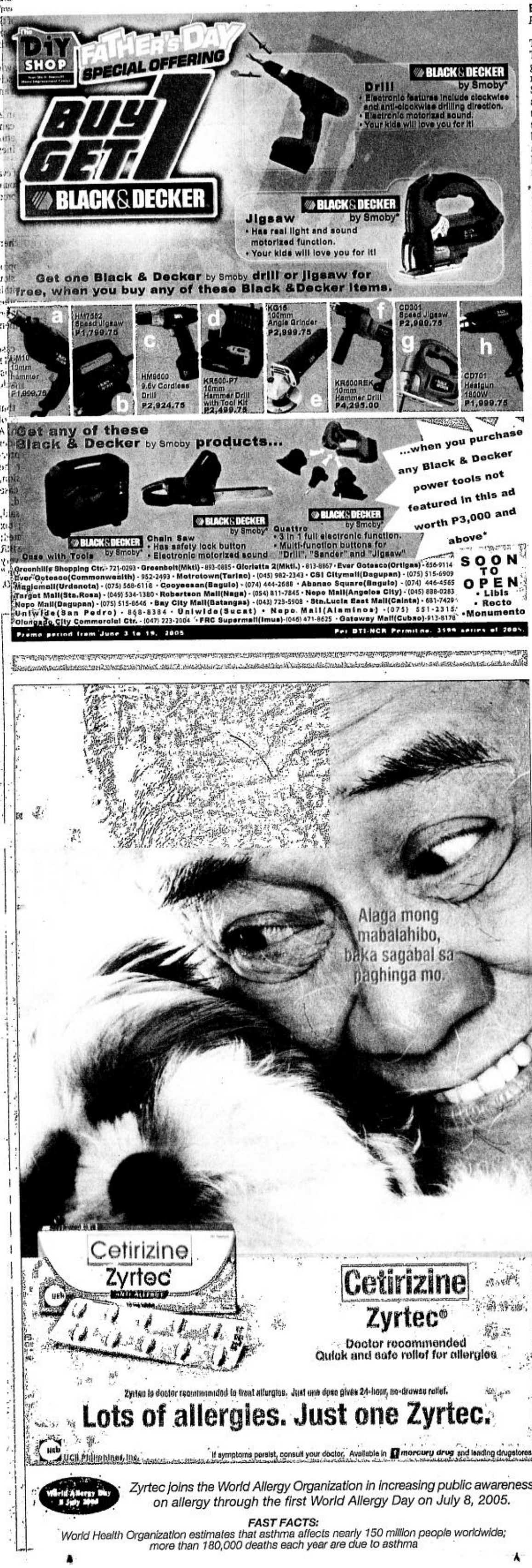
Another move intended to convince local governments to participate in forest protection is to encourage community elders or tribes to adopt existing forest reservations or natural parks and manage them as their own communal forests or communal watersheds, Pogeyed said.

He said a community-based forest management system would help ease the problem of lack of forest rangers.

He aired these proposals in a media forum on Tuesday, noting that Benguet's forest covers and watersheds are slowly disappearing due to tree poachers and natural disasters.

He said the provincial environment office is divided into three community environment and natural resources offices but their personnel are not enough to efficiently accomplish the department's three primary tasks—forest protection, reforestation and watershed management.

Benguet covers an area of 2,606 square kilometers and more than 70 percent are considered forest lands.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Good life for most Pinoys in 10 years–Neda

By Michelle V. Remo
Business

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority said yesterday the goal of providing a good life for most Filipinos in the next 10 years could be reached, but a lot more effort should be exerted to create the desired economic and social environment to sustain it.

In the presentation of the Second Philippine Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Neda Director General Romulo Neri said the Philippines was likely to attain targets on reducing extreme poverty, providing primary education to all school-aged children, and reducing child mortality.

But the country's chief economist said "challenges" remained in improving maternal health and reproductive health services, reducing the incidence of illnesses, achieving sustainability of natural resources, and enhancing the country's global competitiveness.

"We are on track to meet our goals, especially on poverty reduction, but we need to do more in some areas," Neri said in his presentation at the Manila Hotel.

There are eight items in the MDGs: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education; promotion of gender equality; reduction of child mortality; improvement of maternal health; combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; environment sustainability, and development of a global partnership for development.

Poverty reduction

On poverty reduction, the report stated that the number of Filipinos that do not meet the minimum required food intake a day declined from 15.8 percent of the total population in 2000 to 13.8 percent in 2003. The subsistence food threshold was set at P8,134 per capita per year, or P3,389 per month for a family of five members.

The prevalence of underweight schoolchildren declined from 30.6 percent of the total schoolchildren population in 2001 to 27.6 percent in 2003.

The report also stated that the proportion of Filipino households whose per capita dietary intake fell below the minimum energy requirement decreased from 69.4 in 1993 to 56.9 percent in 2003.

But Neri said that while there had been progress in reducing the number of Filipinos that do not meet their energy requirement, the decline by 1.25 percentage points was off the specific target of an annual reduction of 1.85 percent a year.

On primary education for school-aged children, Neri said participation rate was already at 90.5 percent in school year 2002 to 2003.

Neri said that on discussing gender equality, females had the advantage over males in terms of education and literacy. He said the literacy rate among females was at 94.6 percent in 2003 compared with the 93.2 percent for males.

Child mortality

On the need to reduce the level of child mortality, Neri said the Philippines gained some notable progress, as the child mortality rate decreased over the past 10 years from 34 to 29 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. He also said deaths of children under 5 years old per 1,000 live births decreased from 54 to 40.

Neri said that from 1993 to 1998, the National Demographic and Health Survey showed a declining trend of maternal mortality rate from 209 per 100,000 live births in 1987-93 to 172 deaths in 1991-97.

The report said the number of HIV cases increased from 1,451 in 2,000 to 2,200 in December 2004. It estimated that the actual number of HIV cases was 10,000, but the prevalence rate of HIV was still at a relatively low level at below one percent.

Neri noted there was an urgent need to properly manage the country's natural resources, as widespread poverty partly hinged on problems related to the handling of these resources.

Environment

"The situation elsewhere is not encouraging. Where the country's marine resources are concerned, overfishing, destructive fishing methods, siltation and pollution have threatened the productivity of the coastal and marine ecosystems," he said.

He said 2003 data stated that the country's air quality in urban areas did not pass international standards. On water, Neri noted that of 462 bodies of water in the country, only 35 percent met the "Class C" mark of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Water quality below Class C means that the water cannot support life systems.

He also noted the statistics on solid waste management, which showed that 65-75 percent of total waste generated in Metro Manila was collected and only 13 percent recycled. Garbage in the metropolis reached 5,345 tons a day, he added.

In the area of developing global partnership, Neri noted that the Philippine economy grew moderately from 2001 to 2004, with gross domestic product expanding at an average rate of four percent. But he also said that the ranking of the Philippines in the Global Competitiveness Report slipped from 2001 to 2004.

BIR charges Cabinet member with tax evasion

From page A1

tax evasion charge against Yap as "allegations."

Matter of courtesy

Yap, who claimed he had divested himself from DHY Realty since he started serving in government, said he was not accorded the courtesy due a Cabinet member when the BIR filed the charges against him.

He said neither Purisima nor BIR chief Guillermo Parayno had informed him that he would be charged with tax evasion as a former officer of DHY Realty.

"As a member of the Cabinet, I should have been informed about this. Not to fix it but as a matter of courtesy," Yap said.

But the damage has been done, he said. "They will not look at me in the same light as before. Even if we will be able to have a favorable outcome on this case, I would carry the label of a tax evader."

He said lawyers of DHY Realty had yet to file all the documents requested by the BIR but the charges were still filed.

Appointment with Yap

Parayno said he had tried to talk to Yap to inform him of DHY's tax deficiencies.

"To be brutally frank about it, it is not our policy really for the commissioner himself to talk to those who are under investigation because that is the job of the investigating team," he said in an interview.

"In this case, I did consider [that] because of the nature of the position and the sensitivity of the issue. I did consider talking to Secretary Yap and I asked for an appointment. Unfortunately, the time for the filing has come.and my request for appointment has not been given," he said.

Parayno acknowledged that an informant had tipped off the BIR about the matter on Feb. 8.

BIR records showed that DHY Realty acquired a 3,176-square-meter property in Pasig from Carlota Mendoza for P20.6 million in 1997 under a conditional deed of sale.

Parayno said the two parties also executed three additional undervalued absolute deeds of sale for the same property—one in January 1997 for P12.7 million, another in November 1997 for P14.3 million, and still another in September 1998 for P1 million.

He pointed out that the additional deeds of sale were executed even after DHY Realty had satisfied the provisions of the conditional deed of sale. Domingo signed the conditional deed of sale while Arthur signed all three undervalued deeds of sale.

Based on the September 1998 deed of sale, DHY Realty obtained a Certificate Authorizing Registration (CAR) for the Pasig property from the BIR Revenue District Office (RDO) in Caloocan City without paying the expanded withholding tax from the sale of the property, a violation of Sections 4, 5 and 6 of Revenue Regulation 8-98.

Parayno said a creditable withholding tax based on the gross selling price should have been levied on the sale. The tax should have been paid with an authorized agent bank of the RDO, which has jurisdiction over the place where the property being transferred is located.

The RDO, in turn, should have issued the corresponding CAR upon presentation of proof of tax payments. Not one of these conditions was satisfied by the company, Parayno said.

Parayno said DHY Realty should have paid P3,079,396.32 in withholding tax and P923,818.90 in documentary stamp tax, but it did not pay the withholding tax from 1997 to 1999 and underpaid its documentary stamp tax.

Fraud

The BIR investigating team said that in testimony during a Pasig Regional Trial Court hearing to resolve the case of the multiple deeds of sale for the property, Mendoza's representative and witness said DHY Realty had asked the seller to sign the additional deeds of sale so that DHY Realty could avail itself of lower taxes.

Purisima said the execution of the four documents, done in a willful and deliberate manner by the parties, and the eventual presentation of the September 1998 absolute deed of sale bearing the lowest purchase price to the BIR and the Registry of Deeds were clearly meant to evade taxes.

Although the Yaps were willing to "pay everything that has not been paid for," Parayno said they could no longer escape criminal liability because the BIR had already established "prima facie fraud" as a basis for filing the charges.

The Yaps face up to 10 years imprisonment each.

In a statement, DHY Realty described the filing of charges against Domingo and Arthur Yap as "sad and unfortunate."

The company said the "filing might have given the false impression of certain illegalities on the part of employees or representatives."

"The truth of the matter is DHY relied entirely on the company's external counsel in the handling of the transaction from start to finish, particularly those involving direct transactions with the seller, payment of all fees and charges and dealing with the appropriate agencies in securing the necessary approval and release of the new title," the company said.

DHY said it had been "unaware of any infirmity on any part of the transaction" after the company was presented with a new certificate of title in its name.

It said it was cooperating with the BIR through the full disclosure of pertinent information and submission of documents.

The BIR has filed more than 20 tax evasion cases since its campaign started in March, targeting celebrities, doctors and business people, among others.

The aim is to end a culture of evasion and raise the tax take of around 12.5 percent of gross domestic product, among the lowest in Asia.

No convictions

Despite the tough words, there have been no convictions.

That is up to the Philippine courts, where justice is often slow and unreliable. Corruption within the tax agency remains another major barrier to raising its collections and helping the government trim its chronic budget deficit.

With the filing of the case against Yap, Bonoan said RATE operatives had succeeded in dispelling doubts that they would only go after the "small fry."

"What we want to say is that we would go after all sectors of society. We do not distinguish. A tax evader is a tax evader whether he comes from the entertainment industry, whether he comes from the legal profession, or a doctor, or even in this case the government," Bonoan said.

The overall message, he said, was "tax evasion is a crime; tax evasion will no longer be tolerated; that the DOF together with the BIR will do all it can to stop this very dangerous practice of tax evasion."

With a report from Christine O. Avendaño and Reuters

'They are going too far'

From page A1

and access to safe drinking water, according to the progress report prepared by the National Economic and Development Authority.

Deborah Landey, outgoing resident UN coordinator, expressed confidence that the current political turmoil would not set back the Philippines' progress toward achieving targets in the MDGs of the UN Development Program (UNDP).

"The work on the MDGs have been going on for years in this country. Many, many people in society have been working very hard on these goals and that work will continue. No doubt about that. You should be very proud of the results," said Landey, who leaves today for a new post in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ms Arroyo said that with the implementation of the second phase of her economic reforms, the "destabilizers" realized they had to move against her now before the "gains" of these reforms could be achieved.

"It is now or never for them because when Phase 2 begins to bear fruit and the Millennium Development Goals will become attainable, it will be too late for them," she said.

Obviously referring to the raging controversies hounding her and her family, Ms Arroyo said her detractors were taking advantage of her unpopularity that arose in the first place when she made the tough decisions, like pushing for new taxes to fund her economic reforms.

Improved tax collection

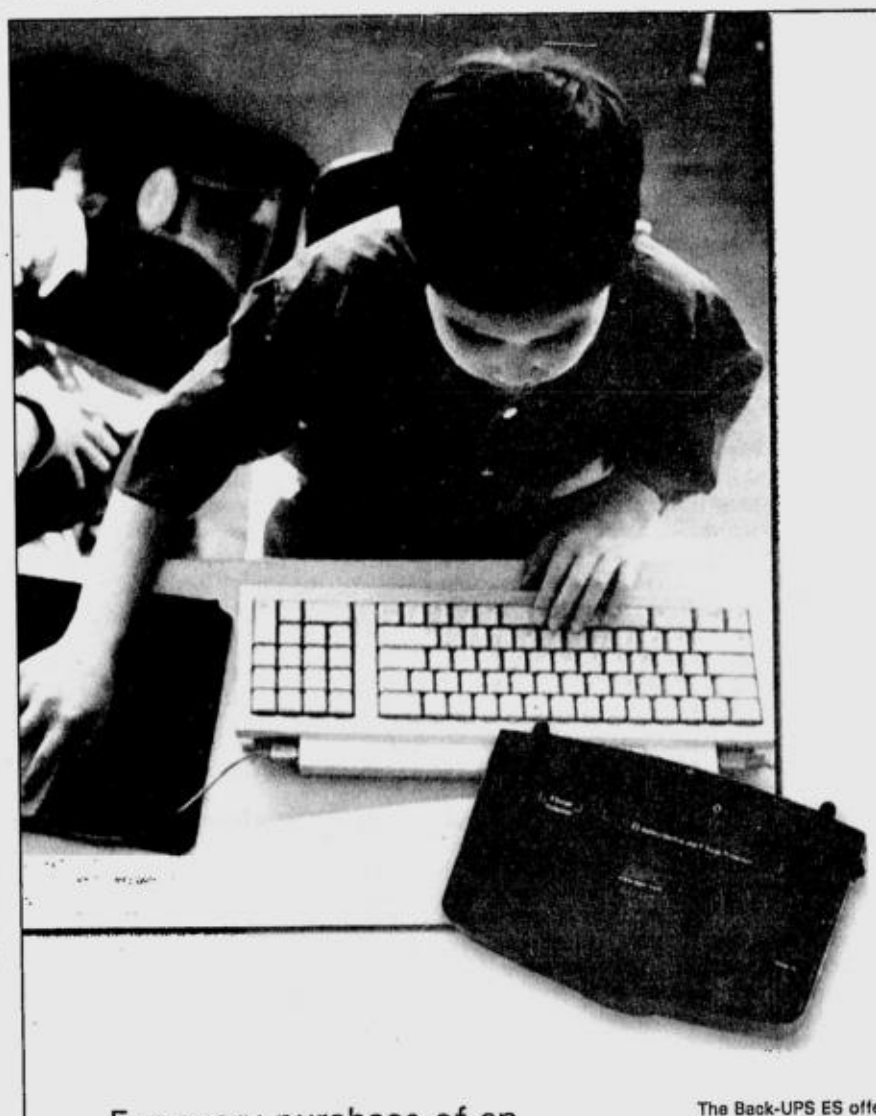
Outlining improvements in the economy, Ms Arroyo said the government was able to surpass tax collection targets in May, a repeat of the effort achieved the month before.

"I am happy to hear once again that our May collections are higher by 18 percent than the May collections of last year," she said.

Likewise, the President disclosed that Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima had reported to her that the budget deficit was now "below the ceiling we have allowed for ourselves."

Ms Arroyo said the country was "on track" with its MDG objective to beat hunger and poverty by 2015. She also said the unemployment rate had gone down from 3.1 million to 2.9 million jobless Filipinos over the past year.

"At least, we are no longer running in place like (a jogger on) a treadmill," she said.



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Ex-UP head calls for 'revolutionary gov't'

By DJ Yap

A REVOLUTIONARY government like the one that installed Corazon Aquino as president in 1986 is what Filipinos should now bat for, instead of just the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The radical suggestion was aired yesterday by Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo, a former president of the University of the Philippines. He said the objective was to "start from the beginning" because a regime change would not be enough to bring about genuine reforms.

"We have to reduce the power of the elite. Only then can democracy have a chance to flourish in this country," Nemenzo said at a press conference held at the university's Quezon City campus, wherein disgruntled sectors of the UP community demanded Ms Arroyo's "resignation, impeachment or ouster."

The UP Alliance for Arroyo's Removal (UP Aware), composed of students, teachers, and administrative, research and support staff, based its demand on allegations that the President's victory in the May 2004 election was fraudulent.

Nemenzo said a snap election would be useless because the elite would still control the government.

"What we really need [to do] is call for a provisional revolutionary government," he said in Filipino.

Asked to explain, Nemenzo said the people had lost their trust in government institutions, such as the Senate and the House.

Even if the President was impeached, he said, those who would take part in the political exercise had "very low credibility."

The only recourse left to the people is to take "extraconstitutional means" of wresting power, Nemenzo said.

It will then be up to the people to decide who should lead them, he said, adding: "In popular upheavals, it is the least expected person who turns out to be the leader."

At the press conference attended by opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Ted Pascua, who represented losing 2004 presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva, UP Aware read a statement rejecting what it said was a leadership founded on lies and deceit.

Giovanni Tapang of the Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan said his group had studied the female voice in the purported wiretapped conversations and compared it with Ms Arroyo's last State of the Nation Address. He said the preliminary results indicated a likely match.

UP Aware also said the controversial tape was the latest indictment of the Arroyo administration.

To Nemenzo's radical suggestion, Pimentel said he preferred a more "moderate" approach—Ms Arroyo's resignation.

He said Vice President Noli de Castro should also step down, after which Senate President Franklin Drilon would serve as acting president for the sole purpose of calling for an election.

Asked if he then intended to seek the presidency, Pimentel said he was too old to do so.

GMA rejects House request for tape comment

From page A1

away from her. She must take the lead and grab the bull by the horns."

Drilon said the administration bloc in the Senate remained in full support of the President, but added that he would prefer a direct statement from her on the serious allegation.

"I myself would be interested in the truth," he said.

Just her position

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House public information committee that would lead the joint investigation, stressed that the letter to be sent to Ms Arroyo would not contain a "categorical" question about the tape.

"We will [only] ask her to comment and get her position on the issues in which her name has been mentioned," he said.

Remulla said a working draft had been completed. But the letter might be sent to Malacañang only on Monday because it will have to be reviewed by the chairs of the four other committees involved in the investigation set to start on Tuesday.

Asked what would happen if the President ignored the letter, Remulla said: "We'll have to decide from there.

"If the President decides not to reply, that's her choice. We will respect it."

From Paris, where he is seeking debt relief and mining investments for the Philippines, Speaker Jose de Venecia sent a statement assuring the public of "transparency" in the House investigation.

"I am allowing the use of the plenary hall during the recess so as to accommodate House members, invited resource persons and guests who will testify during the hearings," De Venecia said.

Correct stand

Ms Arroyo's other ranking allies in the House said she could choose to ignore the chamber's letter.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Iloilo Rep. Exequiel Javier said the President could even seek the Supreme Court's help "if the House will insist on writing [to her]."

They said sending Ms Arroyo the letter could violate the constitutional provision on the separation of powers of the executive and legislative branches and the rule guaranteeing the right to privacy and against self-incrimination.

"As majority leader, I have made known my reservations and objections about the House committees writing a letter to the President. [This is] precisely because she already said she would not ... dignify an illegally obtained and non-admissible tape or disc evidence, which has no probative, evidentiary value whatsoever except to destroy her administration by propaganda," Nograles said.

"And the President is correct in her stand. The decision by the committees to write her a courtesy letter should be for the sole purpose of her [putting] on official record her position that she won't dignify falsified tapes illegally obtained," he added.

Silence

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, chair of the House committee on defense which is also part of the inquiry, downplayed Bunye's call on Wednesday for the public to respect the President's silence.

"We have not yet sent our letter so we can't consider Secretary Bunye's statement as the President's reply. I hope that the President in her good heart will reconsider her position after receiving and reading our letter which, we assure her, will be worded in the most respectful way possible, befitting the dignity of her office," Golez said.

He added: "I just feel it would be a sad day if the President would respond with silence to our letter."

But Minority Leader Francis Escudero said that by her continuing silence, Ms Arroyo had already declared that the female voice on the tape was hers.

"She has convicted herself on the principle that if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear," Escudero, secretary general of the United Opposition, said at a press conference.

"And even if indeed she has something to hide, she should act like a true leader and patriot and face the consequences of her actions," he said.

Real issues

Bunye said Malacañang respected the investigation initiated by the House.

"But to insist on the President's response relative to this dubious audio tape is inappropriate as far as we are concerned," he said, adding:

"The real issues are, first, whether the President cheated in the last election, which she did not, and, second, whether a destabilization plot exists, and it does exist."

Bunye said Malacañang was prepared to engage on the issues of election fraud and destabilization, "citing legitimate comments and records."

"But we stand firm on our decision not to dignify the tapes," he said.

By coming out with copies of the President's alleged wiretapped conversations with Garcillano, the opposition is "projecting that we cheated in the election," Bunye said. "We can answer that without referring to the tapes."

He said Malacañang was planning to inundate Congress with testimony from neutral sources and "credible" agencies to bolster its position that "there was no cheating, and if there was cheating, it was not that widespread."

"International observers said the elections were generally clean and orderly, and this was stated by the US Embassy and Namfrel (National Citizens Movement for Free Elections)," Bunye said.

"We have records of various surveys by ABS-CBN, dzRH, Pulse Asia, SWS (Social Weather Stations) and AMA. All of these pre-polls and exit polls indicated that the President would win and the margin of victory would be anywhere from 800,000 to over a million. These surveys were confirmed by actual results," he said.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said that by seeking the President's comment on the tape, the House had shown that it was "doing more than the Senate."

"The Senate should be ashamed for doing nothing. Some of us just want to earn brownie points with [Ms Arroyo]. Maybe the senators are more scared. They want to keep their positions," he said.

Osmeña said the Senate's cool reception to Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s proposal for an inquiry had sent a signal to the public that it was "not willing to stand up for the truth."

Drilon had expressed openness to a Senate inquiry into the tape. But he and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, had ruled out the possibility of the chamber conducting such a probe now because it is in recess and will not reconvene until July 25.

Osmeña said it was high time Ms Arroyo faced the allegations of election fraud.

But he said it would be understandable if Ms Arroyo ignored the House's request because the matter had become a case of "damned if she does and damned if she doesn't."

Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he had listened to the allegedly wiretapped conversations of the President.

"I'm convinced that the tape is genuine. That is her voice in there," he told the INQUIRER.

Cruz said he had listened to a reproduction of the three-hour tape presented last week by Samuel Ong, former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director for intelligence.

The tape, which Ong called "the mother of all tapes," is now being held by Bishop Teodoro Bacani. Cruz refused to say how he got his copy or how he could be sure that it was a faithful reproduction of Ong's tape. And the absence of credibility is her own doing, Cruz said. *Gil Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza and Christian V. Esguerra*

Wiretap? Noli extra cautious

From page A1

had become extra cautious when using his mobile phone. *"Dahil ngayon pati ako* (Because now, even I am) ..." he said before trailing off.

"Wiretapped?" a reporter said.

"*Hindi naman* (Not really)," De Castro replied with a smile.

The Vice President spoke with reporters in a chance interview at the Manila Hotel, where he was a guest at the launch of the second Philippine progress report on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations Development Program.

To demonstrate his point, he took out his mobile phone, put it to his ear, and pretended to have a conversation with someone.

"*'Pag may kausap ako, sandali lang, ano ang pinagsasasabi mo? Mamaya na lang* (When I'm talking to someone ... wait a minute, what are you saying? We'll talk later)," he said, laughing with his interviewers.

He continued: "*Pag medyo huminto ang* cell phone *mo, uy,* wiretapped *yata ako, ah.* (When your phone stops working for a while, you think, I could be wiretapped)."

De Castro said that as he had shown, there might be a need for a stricter law on wiretapping.

With the alleged wiretapping of no less than the President, everybody now thinks anyone's phone could be bugged, he said.

No objection

De Castro said he had no objection to the House investigation of the tape scandal, as long as there was evidence.

"Remember that this is in aid of legislation, not to prosecute anyone," he said. "Let's try to find out. It's scary now, such that we might need a stricter law," he said.

Amid calls for the President's resignation, or talk that she could be impeached, De Castro said he had not given much thought to the possibility he might just have to fill Ms Arroyo's shoes anytime soon.

"*Maghintay na lang tayo ng* 2010 *kung gusto nilang palitan siya* (Let's just wait for 2010 [when her term ends] if they want to replace her)," the Vice President said.

Tape replays Biazon-Barbers poll fight

From page A1

nalang alalahanin ko sa 'yo. Pero marami pang natitira, pwede pang dagdag eh, ha?" Barbers allegedly told Garcillano.

In a taped conversation on June 4, "Garcillano" instructed "Barbers" to leave the P2 million with his executive secretary at the Comelec, a certain Ellen Peralta.

Irony

Former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou had a good laugh while listening to the conversations. "The irony of it," she said.

Demetriou said that in early 1999, Barbers called her to complain about Garcillano's involvement in "fraudulent activities" during the 1998 elections in Northern Mindanao, where Garcillano was assigned as Comelec director.

In the elections, Barbers ran for senator while his mother, Regina, ran for governor in Surigao del Norte. His son, Robert Ace, ran for the congressional seat while his other son, Robert Jr., ran for councilor in Makati City.

Regina lost the gubernatorial race, and Barbers was said to have blamed Garcillano for the debacle. Soon after Demetriou's confirmation at the Commission on Appointments in January 1999, Barbers gave her a call about Garcillano's conduct.

Garcillano was summoned to Manila for a confrontation with Barbers in the commissioners' office.

Demetriou said that during the confrontation, Garcillano explained his side and vehemently denied he had engaged in electoral fraud.

"So I asked Barbers if he wanted to file a formal complaint so we could conduct an investigation. He said, *'H'wag na lang* (Never mind)," Demetriou recalled.

After Barbers left, Demetriou said she confronted Garcillano about the complaint, and the regional director reiterated his denial.

"I glowered at him. *H'wag kang lukoloko, Garcillano. Tandaan mo ito, kung totoo ito, ipakukulong kita* (Don't fool around. Remember this, if this is true, I'll have you arrested)," Demetrio recalled telling Garcillano.

Barbers in Europe

The INQUIRER tried to contact Barbers, but his publicist said the former senator was in Europe on his way to the United States. Barbers left last week and would be away for at least a month.

Biazon was proclaimed the winner on June 2 by a margin of 10,685 votes over Barbers, but on June 8, Barbers said the proclamation was "illegal, premature and anomalous."

Barbers said there was a mathematical probability that the results could change with 29,219 votes still to be canvassed by the Comelec.

The Comelec, however, junked Barbers' petition and upheld Biazon as the 12th winning senator in the 2004 elections.

In Cotabato City, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said the conduct of the May 2004 polls in Mindanao was clean and orderly.

"As far as we are concerned, there was no irregularity," he said.

Abalos made the claim on radio dxMS Wednesday despite the recordings of alleged conversations between the President and Garcillano.

In the conversations, it appeared that there were efforts to influence the results of the elections in favor of Ms Arroyo in Lanao del Sur and in Cotabato City.

Massive cheating

Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the National Movement for Free Elections in Lanao del Sur, earlier said he had documents to prove that massive cheating had occurred in the province in favor of the President.

Comelec supervisor Lintang Bedol in Maguindanao, whose name was repeatedly mentioned in the series of conversations, denied any wrongdoing.

"I was puzzled why my name was dragged into this controversy," Bedol said.

He said it was impossible for him to receive instructions from Garcillano because Abalos was the commissioner-in-charge for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Bedol, who supervised the canvassing of votes cast in the city, said Garcillano did not call him on June 10, 2004, to change the results of the presidential race.

"At that time the canvassing was already over and in Cotabato City, GMA lost to FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.). How can they accuse us of rigging the results?" he said.

Abalos acknowledged that the scandal had affected the Comelec's credibility, but added he was hopeful the doubts would soon be cleared.

"As far as the Comelec is concerned, we are not experts and we don't have the technical knowledge to determine the authenticity of the alleged taped conversations between President Arroyo and Garcillano. We must not misjudge and just focus our actions and judgment on the issue based on reason and scientific studies," he said. *With a report from the PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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NBI nabs 10 alien GROs in Manila bar

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is looking into the alarming number of Chinese tourists working as guest relation officers (GROs) in local clubs following the apprehension of 10 foreigners, some of them minors, in a videoke bar in Manila the other night.

NBI-National Capital Region Executive Officer Ross Bautista said they received information that women were recruited in China and offered jobs in the country by a local syndicate.

"The group then takes care of the women and keeps them in reserve for clubs in need of GROs with their qualifications," Bautista said in an interview.

He said many club patrons are Chinese businessmen and tourists who prefer Chinese-speaking women to entertain them.

When a particular club needs the women for picky customers, they call the syndicate, which immediately sends them over for a fee.

No work permits

"These women then pose with the club patrons and pretend to be customers so the club management would not be held liable in case of raids," Bautista said.

He added that the women have properly documented papers but lack working permits.

"We are still investigating who is behind this group and surveying the clubs who may be benefiting from the business," Bautista said.

He stressed that once identified, charges of violating the Anti-Human Trafficking Law would be filed against members of the syndicate.

Bautista also said they would coordinate with the Bureau of Immigration to verify the actual status of the apprehended women.

The foreigners arrested with 10 other Filipino GROs at the New Orient Music Lounge in Sta. Cruz, Manila, were later released after they presented documents showing that they were tourists.

"But when our agents asked the businessmen they were with if they knew the women, they shook their heads," Bautista said, adding that the foreigners could not speak a word of Filipino.

"This shows that there was no truth to their alibi that they came with the club patrons," he added.

Bautista said the club owners were charged with violation of the Anti-Child Abuse Law for employing a minor GRO.

The NBI withheld the names of the women pending investigation.

Prove guards connived with 'Pajero Lady'—CIW

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PROVE it.

The head of the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW) yesterday asked accusers to prove their allegations that her two prison guards had a hand in the escape of one of their detainees known as the "Pajero Lady."

"We would appreciate it if they could prove that allegation so we can give the appropriate disciplinary action to the two," CIW superintendent Rachel Ruelo told the INQUIRER.

The prison guards are in hot water after Maria Lourdes de Guzman, whom police call the "Pajero Lady," walked out of their custody at the St. Luke's Hospital on Monday night.

After eluding justice for years, De Guzman was arrested early this year and was imprisoned on March 7 for robbery. She is also facing a string of other charges for robbery and estafa.

Ruelo had already recommended to Bureau of Corrections authorities that Allan Listana and Benedicto Ortega be given a preventive suspension order for 90 days.

She said the two had clearly violated prison rules when they allowed De Guzman to go out of her room at the hospital—in civilian clothes.

But Listana and Ortega denied they had anything to do with the escape.

The two said they are also pained by other reports that they allegedly received a huge sum to facilitate the escape.

They said they never accepted anything from De Guzman.

"Listana and Ortega had been very good workers at Correctional. They had been performing well until this incident happened," Ruelo said.

Her recommendation to suspend the two is still subject to the approval of the Bureau of Corrections, which may also decide to give stiffer disciplinary measures.

MAIN ROAD OR JEEP TERMINAL? BOY CABRIDO
THE SIX-LANE New Panaderos Street in Sta. Ana, Manila, looks like a busy jeepney terminal these days, with four lanes occupied by passenger jeepneys, causing major traffic jams in the area.

Clock tower newest tourist stop

By Tina G. Santos

TOURISTS will soon get a chance to enjoy a view of Manila by climbing one of the city's famous landmarks—the clock tower at City Hall.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza disclosed that the city government is planning to restore and transform the clock tower into a tourist attraction.

"We realized the value of the clock tower as a historic and significant landmark of the city. It could be an exciting destination for our residents and tourists to enjoy," the mayor told the INQUIRER.

The staircases leading to the clock tower, which is located at the 11th floor of the City Hall building, are currently in a bad state.

Atienza said an elevator would be put up to transport sightseers to the tower, adding that they are also planning to build an observatory, a mini museum and even a coffee shop later.

The mayor had earlier ordered the repair of the clock so it could give accurate and synchronized time.

Two clock keepers are tasked to check the mechanism of the clock daily to ensure that it is in good working condition all the time. A sound system, complete with a compact disc player and speakers, would also be installed.

Witness provides ID for cops slay suspects

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ARTIST sketches of two suspects in the killing of two policemen outside a crowded fish market in Malabon City the other night have been released by police authorities yesterday.

Killed in the incident were PO2 Melvyn Mañalac, a member of the local police force, and SPO1 Rodolfo Gatus of the Philippine National Police Bomb Data Center.

Chief Supt. Moises Guevarra, the city's chief of police who created a task force to investigate the case, said descriptions of the suspects were provided by a young witness who saw the shooting.

"I saw (the suspects') faces and heard their voices when they shouted at bystanders to drop to the ground," said the witness.

The witness said he recognized one of them as a certain "Jun." Other witnesses also described the suspect as "*mestizo*-looking," of medium build, tall, and between 30 and 32 years old.

The other suspect was described as fair, in his 20s, with a white towel wrapped around his head.

Police said they were looking into the possible involvement of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade, a breakaway group of the New People's Army.

Food poisoning downs 31 workers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A MEAL shared by employees of a bookstore in Muntinlupa City ended in a trip to the hospital for 31 persons the other night.

Thirty-one employees of the National Bookstore at the Alabang Town Center were rushed to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa Wednesday night after eating food allegedly prepared by Myrna Belista, a worker at the bookstore.

The dish, ground pork mixed with eggs, was prepared as early as 6 a.m. the other day. Belista comes all the way from Cavite to her job as cashier at the National Bookstore branch in Ayala-Alabang, according to Linda Servillon of the City Health Office.

Those who partook of the food at 11:30 a.m. had no symptoms of food poisoning, but the next batch of employees who ate from 1:30 p.m. onward experienced nausea and diarrhea when they returned to their homes, Servillon told the INQUIRER.

Victims told the City Health Office that the bookstore administration held a late staff meeting the other night. At around 8:30 p.m., the employees started trooping to the hospital.

"The food prepared was for 70 persons, so maybe it was cooked hurriedly," Servillon said. She added, however, that it was not Belista's first time to cook for her officemates.

Dr. Angelita Camacho, Ospital ng Muntinlupa administrator, said the victims were given intravenous fluids to prevent dehydration, while the others with mild cases of food poisoning were only given oral medicines to prevent further infection.

All 31 employees, however, were discharged from the hospital early yesterday morning. "Everybody's fine and out of the hospital," said Rhonda Supleo, area manager of the bookstore.

The food poisoning incident was the second to happen in the city. In March, 14 grade school students of the De La Salle-Santiago Zobel School were downed with gastroenteritis after dining on food prepared for their graduation ball.

Following the latest incident, Mayor Jaime Fresnedi reiterated his instructions to school principals and administrators to order their canteen concessionaires to take extra precautions while preparing food for the students.

Seniors' fave spots

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MAKATI'S old-timers seem to know where to pass the time: watching movies for free, and in de luxe seats at that, in the city's premier theaters—the Greenbelt and Glorietta cinemas in Ayala Center.

Records of the city's Office of Senior Citizen Affairs (Osca) showed that the two malls owned by Ayala Land topped the list of movie houses where Makati's senior citizens went for movies from January to April.

Since 1998, the local government and the city's theater owners have been subsidizing movie tickets of senior citizens residing in Makati. While the city pays for 25 percent of ticket prices, theater operators shoulder the remaining 75 percent.

Thus, the city's seniors may enjoy free movies in any of Makati's theaters. Residents 60 years and above may avail of movie passes by presenting their city-issued white cards at the box office.

The seniors' choice of late, however, had been the newer theaters in Greenbelt and Glorietta, two of Makati's best-known malls.

Of the 67,830 tickets that Makati's seniors got for free in the year's first quarter, Greenbelt and Glorietta cinemas issued a total of 42,452, or roughly 62.6 percent of the movie tickets given for free to senior citizens.

The two malls thus raked in the most money out of the quarter's share of the city in movie ticket prices, as the city government paid them a little over P1 million for the free tickets. A movie ticket in Glorietta cinemas costs between P80 to P110, while rates in Greenbelt cinemas range from P130 to P150.

CA orders Caloocan court to suspend TRO on Malonzo

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A COURT of Appeals associate justice yesterday ordered a lower court in Caloocan City to suspend the implementation of its earlier order preventing Christopher Malonzo from taking over a position in the council left vacant by the death of one of its members.

In a two-page order, Associate Justice Conrado M. Vasquez directed Judge Oscar Barrientos of the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court to suspend for 60 days any proceedings on the TRO filed by city Councilor Nora Nubla.

"The court is hereby temporarily enjoined for 60 days from conducting further proceedings entitled Nubla versus Ermita, et al," Vasquez said.

Nubla had filed a petition for a TRO and injunction against Malonzo, who was nominated for the post by his father, former Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, in the latter's capacity as the city's chair of Lakas-CMD.

Respondent

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was included as one of the respondents in the case, for being the signatory of an Executive Order naming the young Malonzo as the replacement for the late Boy Rosca.

The RTC Branch 131 in April yielded to Nubla's petition and issued a TRO against Malonzo, pending injunction proceedings against him.

Vasquez, in his instructions dated June 15, also said that any action taken on the case might prejudice any judgment that the appeals court may render later on.

Malonzo filed a plea at the appellate court after the Caloocan City RTC issued an order which stopped him from attending council sessions.

The TRO, according to Vasquez, would also protect the rights of the parties involved.

Malonzo's appointment was strongly opposed by members of the council, including political allies of his father during the 2004 elections.

Unanimous

The council had unanimously passed and approved a resolution after Rosca's death appointing the late councilor's daughter, Kristine Joy, to take the place of her father.

Museum to supervise Arroceros excavation work

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL Museum has granted Manila's city and school officials a certification allowing them to proceed with the construction of a two-story teachers' building inside the contested Arroceros Forest Park.

But Cecilio Salcedo, acting director of the museum, clarified that they had set certain conditions for the local government and the public school teachers.

"What we gave (them) was a conditional clearance. These include the things we've agreed upon during our meeting recently. We told them that we had no objection to the limited excavation of the area as initial and preparatory works for their project, provided that they follow our conditions," Salcedo told the INQUIRER.

In the one-page certification dated June 14 and signed by Salcedo, among the conditions set by the museum include immediate archaeological excavation or rescue archaeological activities, funded by the Department of Education/City of Manila under the direct supervision of the museum.

Salcedo said that representatives of the National Museum shall monitor and have full control over and supervision of the excavation work being done by City Hall workers.

"No excavation work shall be done without the presence of museum representatives," he said, adding that the construction of the teachers' building would be simultaneous with the archaeological diggings.

If, at any point of the excavation, workers shall come across materials of any significance, Salcedo said construction and excavation work would have to stop.

"The representatives of the National Museum shall inspect and conduct rescue archaeological activities in the area where they may be found. Construction work will only proceed if the museum representatives determine that there are no more archaeological materials that may be recovered from the site," he added.

Environment advocates, particularly the Winner Foundation, the park's caretakers, had been opposed to the construction of the building, saying the move would mean the destruction of lush foliage inside what it called Manila's "last lung." The park had been declared an archaeological site by the National Museum in April 2003.

Winner president Regina Paterno said she doubts city officials would abide with the conditions set by the museum.

"Can they make City Hall follow when it has violated the rules from the very beginning?" Paterno said.

to accommodate more customers and hold more customer events thereby virtually building alliances and forging partnerships with key industry communications and technology sectors like Avaya, GIS, IBM, Intel, Jimac, Microsoft, Microdata, ProSoft and Veritas, to name a few.

On said anniversary date, the program begins by a welcome, opening remarks and keynote address by PLDT's high ranking officers, then followed by a symbolic signing and ratification of partnership with new alliances.

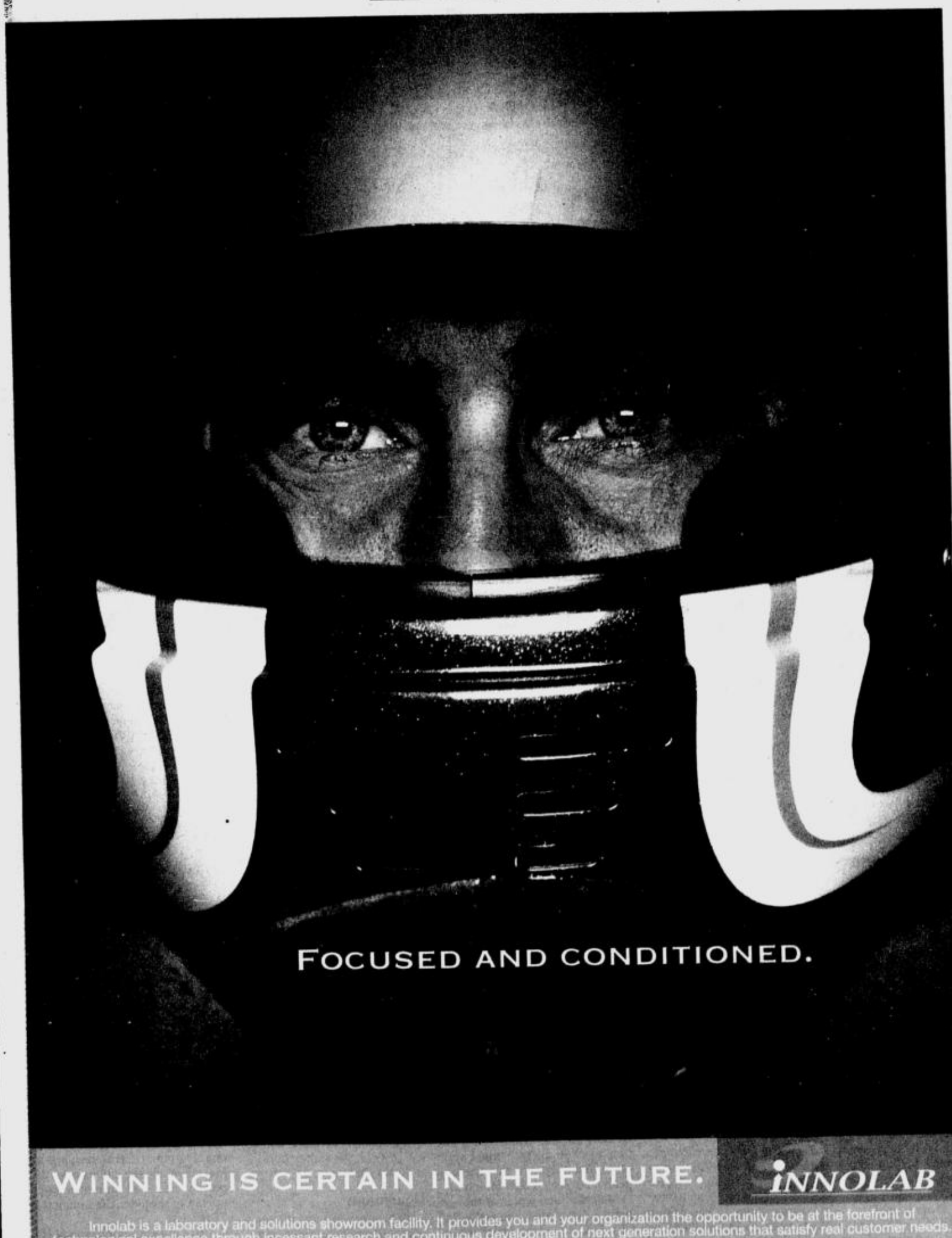
Culminating the activity will be the showing of Innolab's audio visual presentation.

Guests eventually will be enticed and definitely will be excited to tour the entire Innolab facilities.

The event celebration will be capped with cocktails, entertainment and raffles.

Innolab 2nd Year Celebration Event Program

	Activity	
	Start	End
Registration of Guests	6:00 PM	7:00
Playing of National Anthem	7:00	7:04
Showing of AVP (Race to the Future)	7:04	7:10
Welcome Remarks (Mr. Eric Alberto)	7:10	7:15
Opening Remarks (Mr. Poly Nazareno)	7:15	7:20
Introduction of key note speaker (Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan)	7:20	7:22
Key note address (Hon. Juan Santos)	7:22	7:27
Symbolic signing/ratification of Partnership with new alliances	7:27	7:37
Showing of Innolab new AVP-	7:37	7:45
Herding of guests by batch going to the 5/F for the tour	7:45	8:00
Innolab Tour	8:00	8:30
Cocktails/Entertainment (Lucid Acoustic Band) /Raffle	8:30	9:30
End of Program		9:30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PLDT Innolab Now Celebrates Its Second Anniversary

Innolab was first established at PLDT TelTec Building on June 17, 2003, with the following purpose and objective:

- To provide PLDT the opportunity to be at the forefront of the technological excellence through incessant research and continuous development of the next-generation products that satisfy real customer needs.
- To make available high-quality training in field of ICT to customers, students, and ICT-enthusiasts.

More importantly, through Innolab of PLDT, customers will enjoy the following benefits:

- Keep abreast with the wide range of solutions available to PLDT.
- Choose which solution will best suit their needs and budget.
- Witness how new products are being tested and developed.
- Test customized, unique technical requirements across industries.
- Test and validate application if it will effectively run over the desired network.
- Simulate IT applications during problem analysis and trouble shooting activities.
- Expose IT personnel to the latest infrastructure and communications technology to hands on training program.
- Have total confidence on all PLDT solutions offered, each having undergone rigid evaluation and testing.

For more than 75 years now, PLDT has been developing and innovating new products and solutions for customers and through Innolab, the PLDT Business Solutions Group is committed to think ahead and remain on the cutting edge of the telecommunications industry.

Today, June 17, 2005, exactly 2 years after its inception, PLDT Innolab will reveal its new and renovated facilities which will coincide with its 2nd year anniversary celebration at PLDT TelTec Building in Mandaluyong City. With this move, Innolab had raised the ante and redefine technology innovation which will further accelerate selling cycle by showing as many as live industry solutions as possible. This inevitably will thrust PLDT to be at par with other telecoms' R&D in the world and further position PLDT as the only telecom company in the country to invest on research and development for innovative services. And consequently, Innolab will be able

Welcoat nails Unity Cup crown

WELCOAT coach Caloy Garcia gets victory ride. RYAN LIM

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SITUATION was familiar, but the outcome was finally different.

After a string of runner-up finishes, Welcoat Paints bagged the PBL Unity Cup championship by blasting Montaña Pawnshop, 98-80, yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Finals Most Valuable Player Anthony Washington pumped in 25 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the Paintmasters to their first title since 2002.

Leo Najorda also delivered his best performance of the series with 18 points.

"We won this game through teamwork," said coach Caloy Garcia after disposing of the Jewels, the Open champions, at 3-1. "The last time we lost against Montaña, we were playing individually. But this time, we were making extra passes and we believed in each other."

And indeed, almost everyone came firing with Jojo Tangkay drilling in 17 points and Marvin Ortiguerra overcoming his offensive slump with 13 markers.

The victory scripted a happy ending in the amateur career of Washington, who's tabbed as the top pick in the PBA draft this August.

Welcoat spoiled the effort of Jon Dan Salvador, who finished with team-highs 23 points and nine rebounds. Al Vergara added 17 points, as he stepped up for the injured Alex Compton.

After the Jewels held a precarious 43-42 halftime lead, the Paintmasters regained control with key triples from Washington, Ortiguerra and Ryan Dy for a 53-45 buffer in the third quarter.

Najorda, who won the Pivotal Player award, teamed up with Tangkay to score Welcoat's next 10 points and extend the margin, 63-52, early in the fourth period.

With the duo's continued strong play, the Paintmasters steadily built their edge to 74-58.

Vergara and Salvador fueled Montaña's offense, but the Jewels could only pull within 11 points, 78-67.

Washington, who delivered a pair of thunderous jams, provided a fantastic finish as the Paintmasters cruised to an easy win.

Welcoat also sizzled in the backcourt, scoring 39 points beyond the arc. And unlike in Game 3, the taller Paintmasters again dominated the paint, outrebounding the Jewels, 42-32.

The Paintmasters opened the game with an 8-0 run capped by a Jay-A Coching triple.

The Jewels briefly took the lead, 11-10, behind Compton, before Washington, Ortiguerra and Dy fired three-pointers to put the Paintmasters back on top, 19-13.

The Paintmasters maintained their strong start for an early double-digit lead, 28-16, early in the second quarter.

Even as the Jewels drilled six unanswered points to close within 28-22, Washington and Tangkay stretched the lead back to 13 points, 35-22.

The Jewels, though, staged another rally capped by a Salvador three-point play, 39-32.

As the shots suddenly stopped falling for Welcoat, Montaña closed the period with an 11-0 surge for a 43-42 advantage at the break.

But the Jewels couldn't keep the momentum going, as Salvador and Compton, who played with a sprained ankle, lost their shooting touch in the third quarter.

The Scores:

WELCOAT 98—Washington 25, Najorda 18, Tangkay 17, Ortiguerra 13, Tan 6, Dy 6, Orbeta 4, Coching 3, Sta. Maria 2, Sagad 2, Estrada 2, Junio 0, Reyes 0.

MONTAÑA 80—Salvador 23, Vergara 17, Compton 13, Capus 8, Juntilla 7, Mercado 5, Bagulon 4, Guerrero 3, Espiritu 0, Dela Cuesta 0.

Quarters: 24-16, 42-43, 59-52, 98-80.

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Navarrete punches man, grabs vendor's meager earnings

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

NAVARRETE

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Bad Boy of Dadiangas is in trouble again.

A 30-year-old neighbor of former world junior lightweight champion Rolando Navarrete sustained a busted lip when the latter punched him without any provocation Wednesday morning.

Ismael Mulo, a resident of Llido Subdivision here, claimed that he was standing by the roadside around 9 a.m. when the former ring idol approached him and hit him in the mouth.

Navarrete, who was known as "Bad Boy of Dadiangas" during his heyday in boxing, failed to floor Mulo but the punch broke the victim's lips.

Mulo claimed he had not done anything wrong to Navarrete to deserve such treatment.

"He just punched me without saying anything," Mulo said in the Visayan dialect.

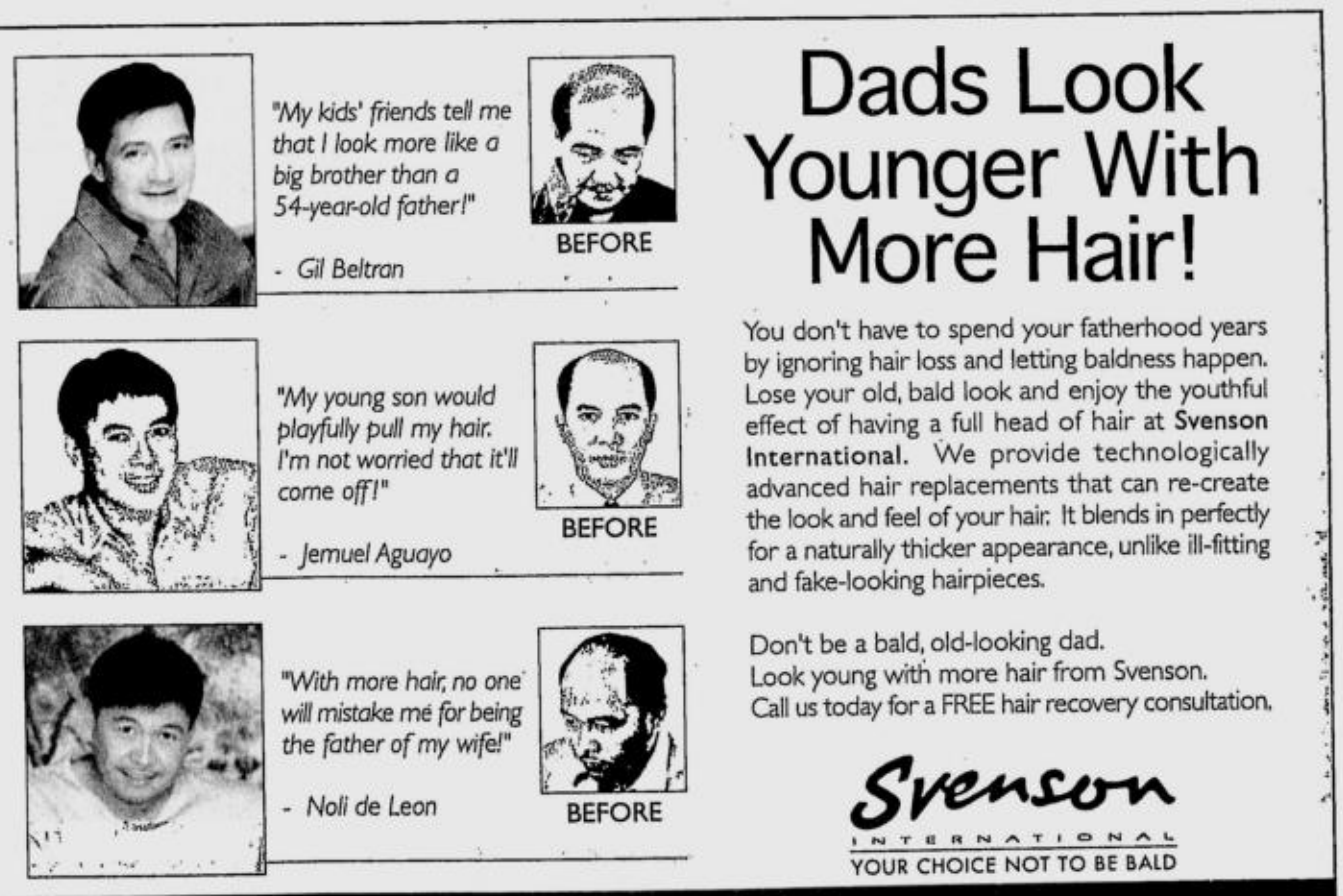
The victim went to the Bula police station to have Navarrete arrested. But the former boxer had already left the scene when the police arrived.

The police advised Mulo to secure a medical certificate so he can file formal charges against Navarrete.

Around 10 a.m. on the same day, the INQUIRER saw Navarrete and his live-in partner, Elizabeth Tambon, getting off a tricycle near the City Hall.

Navarrete went straight to a cigarette vendor and grabbed several coins. The visibly irked vendor did not protest but he hurled invectives at Navarrete after he had left.

Navarrete was overheard saying, "I'm going to pay you back when I earn something today."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SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo tossers upend Lady Tams

BEACH volleyball standout Michelle Laborte showed she's also good on solid ground by powering Ateneo to a 26-24, 18-25, 25-22, 25-17 victory over Far Eastern University yesterday in the Shakey's V-League at the Rizal Coliseum.

Laborte, former mainstay of the Letran squad, led Ateneo with 17 points and came through with nine blocks that sustained her reputation as the league's top shot blocker.

It was the Lady Eagles' sixth triumph in 10 games as they displayed their readiness for the semifinals which starts next week.

The Lady Tamaraws closed out their uneventful campaign with a 2-8 record.

Laborte was ably supported by Cecile Tabuena, formerly of La Salle Bacolod, who accounted for 14 points, 13 of them on attacks. Former RP team member Amelia Guanco scored 12 points, nine coming from spikes.

Ateneo is already assured of a slot in the next round with the league's fourth best record behind top qualifier La Salle, University of Santo Tomas and San Sebastian College.

Far Eastern drew 17 points from Ruby May Rovira but these were barely noticed as the Lady Tamaraws could not match up to the aggressive Ateneo crew.

The Lady Tamaraws finished ahead of the winless Lyceum Lady Pirates.

The tournament, sponsored by Shakey's Pizza, is backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC13 and Jemah Television.

Karla Tricia Magno

Red Bull ties Alaska; Shell pulls it off

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—Red Bull Barako capitalized on coach Tim Cone's ejection to take the sting out of Alaska, 84-71, and force a rubber-match in the quarterfinals of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Ynares Cener.

After Cone got the boot, the Barako pulled away for good with old reliables Vergel Meneses and Nelson Asaytono driving the dagger deep into the hearts of the Aces.

"His (Cone) ejection meant a lot for us," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, whose Barako enters today's deciding Game 3 of the best-of-three series seeking a semifinal clash with San Miguel Beer in the semifinals.

"We're ahead at the time but we felt unsafe until Tim got ejected," added Guiao.

Cone received two technicals for excessive complaining and was thrown out of the court with the Barako leading, 57-42, four minutes and 23 seconds left in the third period.

Sans Cone, the Aces were running like chickens without heads, committing a handful of costly turnovers that allowed the Barako to zoom ahead, 72-47, before the final quarter.

Meneses scored seven of his 10 points in that stretch and Asaytono, who got away with a couple of huge plays against Dickey Simpkins, had eight.

Earl Barron got back at Simpkins by finishing with 21 points and 14 rebounds while Lordy Tugade added 17 on six of 14 field-goal shooting.

"I'm sure Game 3 will be very close. Whoever comes out tougher in defense will clinch the series," said Guiao. "Playoff time is defense time."

Shell again leaned on import Ajani Williams to repeat over Purefoods, 87-80, and advance to the semifinals against Talk 'N Text. Their best-of-five series begins Sunday.

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 84—Barron 21, Tugade 17, Asaytono 10, Meneses 10, Villanueva 9, Robinson 6, Bagulo 5, Ybanez 4, Feihl 2, Ejercito 0, Torion 0, Gahol 0.

ALASKA 71—Simpkins 20, Allado 9, Cortez 8, Cariaso 7, Duat 7, Padilla 5, Wilson 4, Johnson 3, Thoss 2, Hawkins 2, Hugnatan 2, Cablay 2, Tejada 0.

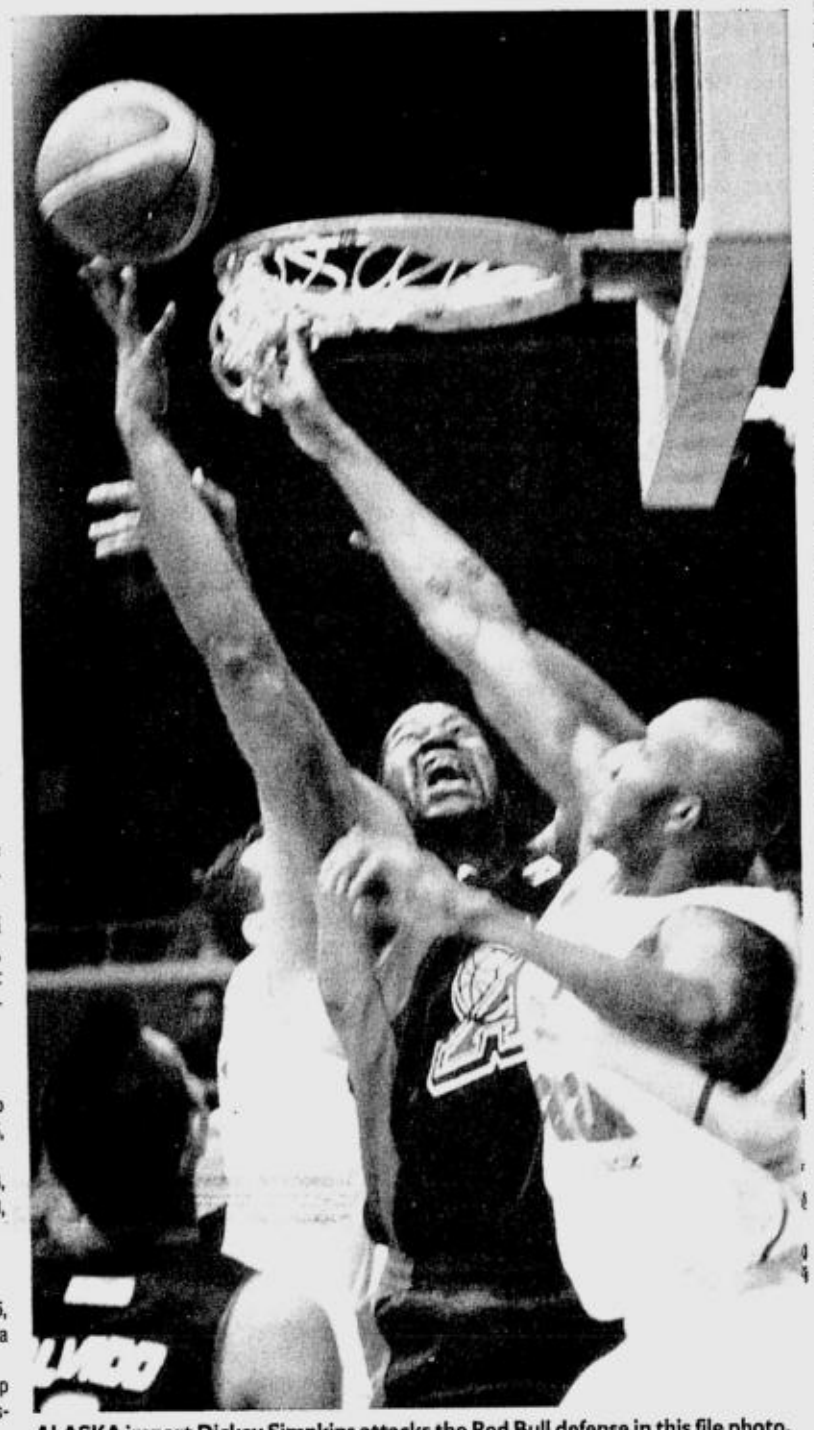
Quarters: 20-13, 38-25, 72-47, 84-71

Second Game

SHELL 87—Williams 28, Yap 16, Mamaril 15, Calaguio 10, Tubid 9, Dela Cruz 7, Alvarez 2, Ferreria 0, Cruz 0.

PUREFOODS 80—Melvin 21, Raymundo 15, Yap 14, Artadi 12, Castillo 10, Evangelista 6, Yee 2, Espinosa 0, Simon 0.

Quarters: 20-22, 45-46, 68-62, 87-80.



ALASKA import Dickey Simpkins attacks the Red Bull defense in this file photo. Simpkins complained of a sore back and scored only eight last night. PDI PHOTO

Focus on 6 drivers as AF-3 returns to Zhuhai

MIKOLA: Leader

PEÑA: Top RP hope

QUESTIONS that begged for answers in the last two races will be finally settled when the Asian Formula Three Grand Prix returns to Guangdong, China, this weekend for the fifth and sixth legs of the series at the Zhuhai International Circuit.

A field of 17 international drivers, including seven Filipinos, will race for podium spots in the International and Promotions class of the Asian-hopping series that also visited Guangdong last month.

Focus will be on six drivers who dominated the third and fourth legs, also held at the Zhuhai circuit, a 4.3-km track featuring a 900-meter straightaway that was built in the late '90s for Formula One racing.

Indonesian Ananda Mikola of Fastron Racing with Three Bond, the series leader with 75 points, ruled the third leg but had to settle for runner-up honors behind Christian Jones, the Australian defending champion and lead driver of Christian Jones Motorsport, in the fourth race.

Busted engines

Filipino young guns Dado Peña of Ambi Pur Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia and Tyson Sy of Speedtech Asia finished second and third, respectively, in the third and fourth legs despite enduring busted engines.

Two other foreign drivers—Rodolfo Avila of Macau and John O'Hara of Ireland, the runner-up last year—failed to land podium spots and signed up with new teams after the races in a bid to come up with worthier performances.

Mikola, driving the car that emerged as the best in last year's Japanese Formula Three series, will be challenged anew by Jones who gave up the car that powered him to victory last year in favor of a faster, newer model.

Jones' old car will now be driven by Avila who is bidding to make up for what he said was a disappointing stint with his previous team, Fujitsu-Ten Toyota Team Tom.

O'Hara also left Toyota Team Tom to hook up with his team last year, Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, whose lead driver in the previous Zhuhai legs, Pepon Marave, gave up his car to accommodate the Irishman.

Biggest question

The biggest question in everybody's mind now is how the various changes will affect the race and the series leaders, Mikola and Jones, who has 62 points, as well as O'Hara, who is a distant third with 32 points after four legs.

Another question begging to be answered is how Avila, last year's winner of the Macau Formula Series, would fare with his new team.

"This promises to be another exciting race, with track hands raring to see how the drivers will react to various changes in team chemistry, car setup and other intangibles," said AF-3 Corp. chair Ed Peña.

Qualifying for grid position will be held tomorrow, with the fifth leg set Sunday morning and the sixth leg in the afternoon.

Both races will be broadcast live by Guangdong Television Sports Channel in 21 major cities in the Guangdong province.

ASIAN UNIVERSITY TILT

Xiamen, Myong Ji zap local foes

DUMAGUETE CITY—Chinese powerhouse Xiamen University and South Korea's Myong Ji University fashioned out easy wins against local foes yesterday in the YKL 4th Asian University Basketball Championship: Dr. Carl Menky Ching Cup at the Lamberto Macias gym here.

Huang Jingjun and Yang Kun combined for 53 points to lead Xiamen to an 88-76 victory over local favorite Silliman University, while Lee Seung-hwan fired four triples as Myong Ji clobbered Cebu's Salazar College of Science Institute of Technology, 109-77, as the foreign squads moved closer to the finals.

GAMES TODAY (*Lamberto Macias gym*)
3 p.m.—USC vs Salazar Institute
5 p.m.—WNC vs Silliman U
7 p.m.—Myong Ji U vs Xiamen U

Xiamen and Myong Ji forged a three-way tie for second with Cebu's University of San Carlos at 2-1.

Ele Olarte scattered 28 points to lift West Negros College past University of San Carlos, 81-69, in the other match to regain solo leadership at 3-1.

Olarte, who scored only 5 points in the first half, hit three triples in the final period for the Mustangs.

The Bacolod City-based Mustangs looked a cinch, though, for the first finals slot as they only have to beat the Silliman Stallions in their final match.

The Mustangs' only loss was dealt by Xiamen, 89-95, on Tuesday, a day after they stunned the heavily favored Myong Ji, 81-75.

Fiba hails election of new BAP leaders

THE INTERNATIONAL Basketball Federation (Fiba) Asia has welcomed the election of new officers in the Basketball Association of the Philippines, particularly the election of former senator and Interior Secretary Jose "Joey" Lina as its new president. In a letter dated June 15 and faxed to the BAP office yesterday, Fiba Asia secretary general Dato Yeoh Choo Hock congratulated Lina on his election, adding the organization is looking forward to working closely with him. In another letter, Dato Yeoh lauded the election of committee members. Elected with Lina and chair Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal were Tanduay COO and president Wilson Young (VP for Luzon), FedEx-Air21 president Lito Alvarez (deputy secretary general) and former POC president Cristy Ramos.

adidas Streetball Cebu elims gets going today

THE ADIDAS Streetball Challenge moves to Cebu City today with the staging of its last Visayas eliminations featuring a record 150 teams clashing for top honors in four divisions at SM Cebu.

At stake in the two-day "Big Leg" tournament that ends tomorrow are berths in the regional finals set this Sunday, also at SM Cebu. The winners will join the other leg champions in the Iloilo and Bacolod eliminations for the right to represent Visayas in the National Finals slated July 30-31 at Festival Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Competitions in the Big Leg are in the seniors and girls divisions and the juniors and midgets categories. For inquiries, call area coordinator Dodong Aquino at 032-2535040 or 0917-3804977.

The battle for top honors in the extreme halfcourt game of street basketball is expected to be as fierce as in the first two eliminations.

The winners also gain a crack at the Asian Finals which the country is hosting in September.

Co-presented by Globe Gentxt, the 10th adidas Streetball Challenge is backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, Coppertone, adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

Meanwhile, three other qualifiers are on tap in the next four weeks, including the Cagayan de Oro leg at the Pelaez gym on June 24, which kicks off the Mindanao swing for the final stop of this four-month series.

Winners of the Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga and Davao qualifiers will clash for berths in the national finals on July 17 at the NCCC Mall in Davao. The regional champions will join the top finishers of the NCR tournament in the national finals with the winners in various divisions earning the right to represent the country in the Asian finals.

The rest of the competition schedule: Zamboanga (July 2, Ateneo de Zamboanga) and Davao (July 12-14, NCCC). The screening of teams will be held June 23 (Robinsons-Cagayan de Oro), July 1 (Ateneo de Zamboanga) and July 12-14 (NCCC-Davao). For inquiries, call Team Ventures at 5225953 or 4009745.

Which RP team will the Fiba bless?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MANY basketball fans are confused over the country's preparation for the Southeast Asian Basketball Association tournament in Singapore this August because there are two, repeat two, groups that are preparing our national players for the Seaba meet.

One team is being handled by Chot Reyes, who was chosen by the basketball committee of Philippine Olympic Committee president former Tarlac Rep. Peping Cojuangco and the other coached by Boysie Zamar, who was named by the Basketball Association of the Philippines, then headed by Tiny Literal and now by former Sen. Joey Lina.

On May 25, the BAP was suspended for "reneging on its commitment to the POC" to extend the association's full cooperation to the POC (and the Philippine Basketball Association) in the formation of national teams for international and regional cage tournaments, including the Seaba meet, as embodied in a resolution signed by BAP officials themselves. Among the signatories were BAP executive vice president Christian Tan, vice president Filomeno Codiñera, secretary general Graham Lim and legal counsel Bonifacio Alentajan. However, these same officials, plus a few more, disregarded this commitment to the POC by passing another resolution stating that the association is forming instead its own national team to the Seaba meet.

Then during last Tuesday's PSA Forum, BAP deputy secretary general Lito Alvarez said that, even though it is under suspension by the POC, it is still recognized by the Fiba, the governing body for world basketball, and, as such, would continue to form and train the national teams for international competitions, including the Seaba tourney.

"The BAP has been disrespectful of the POC suspension," said POC chair Robert Aventajado. "And, to a certain extent, arrogant in claiming that for as long as they are recognized by their international federation, they will continue to decide on the formation of our national teams to international tournaments."

Two-time Fiba president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat also assailed the BAP for its show of defiance of the POC suspension.

"The BAP is making a mockery of the POC order, which was unanimously approved during a general assembly meeting," he said.

The POC's next general assembly meeting in July is expected to decide the possible expulsion of the BAP from the Olympic body for its continued defiance of the Olympic spirit and infringement of the POC constitution and bylaws. In its place, a new group, the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc., is being formed.

On the other hand, Tan said they were not bragging about the Fiba recognition but that they are committed to send teams to international tournaments or risk Fiba suspension.

I say we should not waste much time blaming each other and engaging in an endless battle of press releases which serve no purpose except to confuse the public. Methinks one solution to end this confusion is to seek the intervention of the Fiba, the "Supreme Court" of basketball. There is nothing wrong with seeking a Fiba ruling as a last resort.

Fiba made its presence felt during the Lito Puyat-Tiny Literal leadership dispute way back in 2001 when International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde said the BAP crisis will be resolved by a Fiba arbiter "if it isn't settled internally."

Esteemed colleague Joaquin Henson of the Philippine Star even wrote that Elizalde was in close contact with Fiba secretary general Borislav Stankovic and his deputy, Patrick Baumann, at the height of the BAP dispute. In short, if Elizalde was able to get in close contact with Fiba officials before, I see no reason why he can't get in touch with them now. Still, if anybody has a better idea to end this confusion, let's hear them now.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Viray takes charge with even 72

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—Rolly Viray weaved a little magic on Malarayat's sleek greens yesterday, churning out an even-par 72 to wrest a four-stroke lead in the Philippine Senior Amateur championship.

Viray knocked in clutch putts as he bailed himself out of trouble to pool a three-over 147 total heading into the final 18 holes today.

The 55-year-old resident manager of Cangolf stood on the verge of becoming only the second player to win both the RP men's and senior amateur titles.

Viray won the 1975 RP Amateur over Konkoy Tuazon at Capitol Hills, and a win today will make him the only other man, after Francis Gaston, to accomplish the feat.

Defending champion Gaston opened with a double bogey-6 and never got it going. He signed for a 76 (39-37) that included two birdies and four bogeys to trail by six in third spot with a 153 aggregate.

"I putted so well today, I felt I could hole any putt I took," Viray said. "There will be no special game plans for the final round, but I'll try to do the things I did right (in the second round) today."

While Viray was having a field day on the greens, Richie Garcia struggled on them. The pony-tailed 2002 champ shot himself in the foot with a back-nine 42 for a 79 that dropped him to solo second.

Counting his 72 Wednesday, the newly reappointed Sports commissioner now has a 151 total, just two ahead of Gaston and three up on Iggy Clavecilla, another former winner, who limped home with a 78 for 154.

Garcia gave himself several birdie chances but could only convert two of them. He had four three-putts in a round marred by nine bogeys as he missed a handful of four- and five-footers to rescue par.

VIRAY follows through on No. 1.

"That's golf," said Garcia. "I felt distracted while putting. I felt I wasn't totally focused out there."

Caloy Coscoluella, also a former winner, had seven straight bogeys from No. 9 and actually dropped nine shots in an 11-hole span to virtually give up his bid for a second title after an 81 for 158, in a tie with Jose Nepomuceno.

Viray dropped shots after missing the 10th and 12th greens. He stared at another bogey at No. 15 after finding the fairway bunker and being forced to play out.

But he knocked a 120-yard pitching wedge to within seven feet and made the sidehill putt for par. Viray then nailed a five-footer for birdie on the 16th and gained another shot from 22-feet on the par-5 last hole.

The tournament, the second of three national championships the NGAP is organizing this year, is presented by ICTSI and San Miguel Corp. and backed by Aboitiz, Hanjin Group, Petron Blaze, Pagcor, PCSO, Philippine Airlines, the DOT and The Inns at the Malarayat.

Championships in four age divisions will also be disputed today with everyone trying to catch Ben Liclican in the 60-64 group and Cris Gabriel holding on to a one-shot lead in the 65-69 bracket.

Pat Herron on Club Intramuros is the provisional Super Senior (70-74) leader with a net, 36-hole tally of 140, while Indonesian Andy Tabusalla turned in a net 76 to pace Super Senior II (75-and above) action.

The scores: 147—R. Viray (75-72); 151—R. Garcia (72-79); 153—F. Gaston (77-76); 154—I. Clavecilla (76-78); 156—B. Reyes (80-76); 157—B. Bunye (81-76); 158—C. Coscoluella (77-81), J. Nepomuceno (79-79); 159—D. Pizarro (78-81); 160—F. Bawal (82-78); 161—R. San Luis (76-85); 163—D. Cu Unjieng (83-80); 165—D. Olanosa (80-85); 166—F. Adriano (84-82); 169—N. Katigbak (87-82), M. Paz (82-87); 174—O. Soriano (86-88).

MEMBERS of the RP women's team (top) make the final push in the Open race. The team (above) with Bernardo (fourth from left, second row) and officials of the Macau Government Tourist Office (in white, left to right) Alexa Lumberio, Narz Lim and Jet Cabuslay and Dequilla.

RP dragon boat rowers bag silver in tough Macau meet

THE PHILIPPINE team lost the gold-medal race by the skin of its teeth to world champion China in the premier Women's Open race to wrap up its sterling performance in the Macau International Dragon Boat Races held in the former Portuguese enclave recently.

The Filipinas finished a mere three-tenths of a second off the Chinese, also the reigning Asian champions, and 1.36 seconds clear of the third-placed Universidade Beihua de Jilin.

The Philippine team, already the winner of the women's 300 meters in last year's DENR race in Manila and the mixed 500m in last year's Hong Kong International Races, competed in Macau as part of its preparations for the Manila Southeast Asian Games in November.

Managed by Rommuel Celestino, coached by Augusto Dequilla and skippered by Dina Bernardo, the team is made up of Madonna Cadion, Mirasol Abad, Riza Bautista, Tracy Galac, Mayet Alba, Julie Bidanes, Charina Mejares, Amina Anuddin, Eunelyn Denuna, Sanita Kasim, Angelen Hopelos, Gerlie Pradilla, Jinky Agustin, Sally Tordilla, Myra Espenilla, Nesteh Dramayo, Evelyn Persia, Mioelle Gabiligno, Maridel Manaban, Ruditha Poralan, Stephanie Deriada, Aileen Padrones and Ali Orola.

The RP team includes three female soldiers, five students and a career person and counts Burma, Indonesia and Vietnam as its toughest rivals for the gold in the SEA Games.

Prince serves up clubs tourney

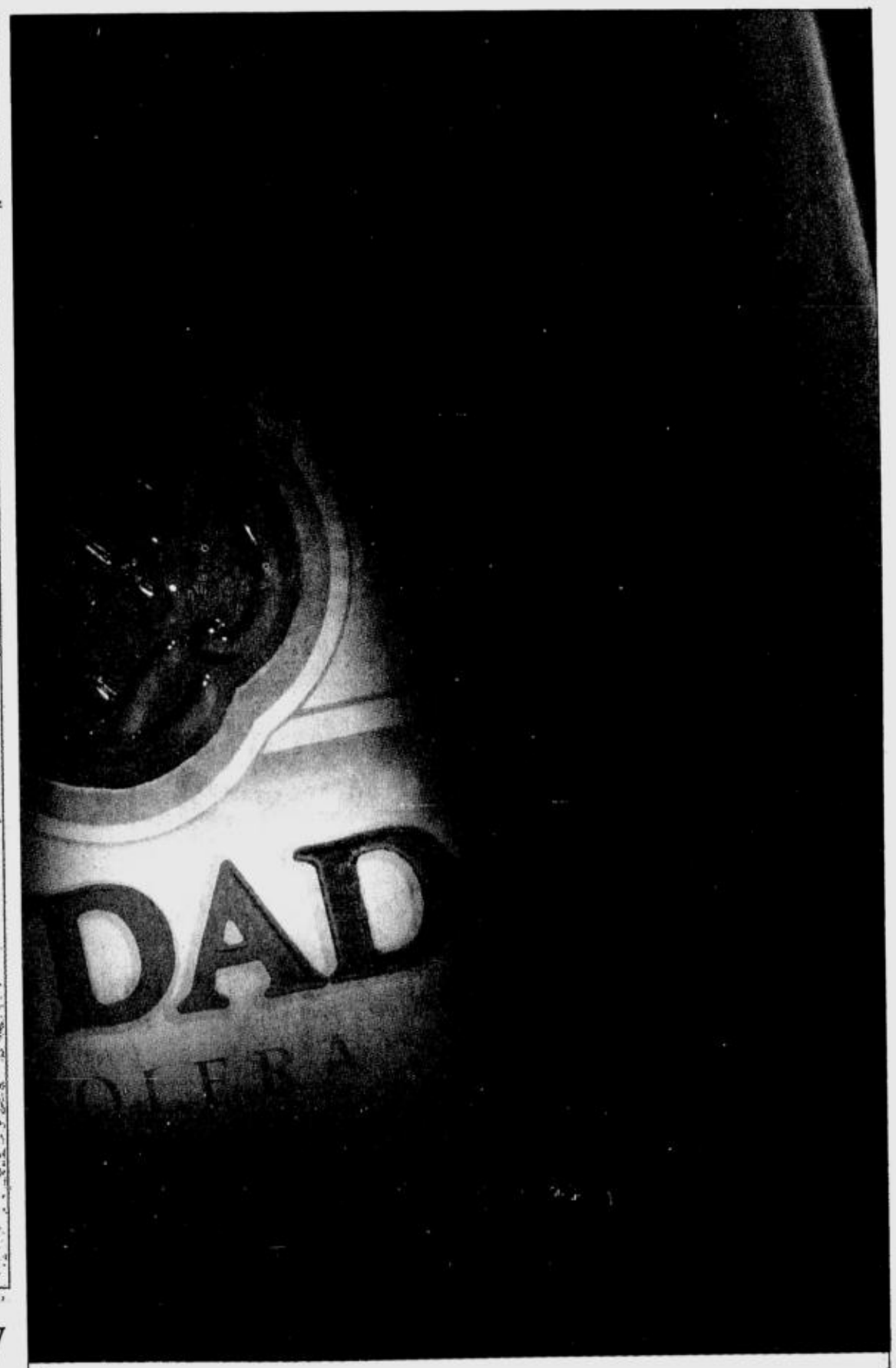
SIX CLUBS are seeing action in the inaugural Prince Home and Away Interclub team tennis championship slated June 18 until Aug. 6.

The Philippine Columbian Association (Manila), Mandaluyong Tennis Club, Valle Verde and Eusebio Tennis Club (Pasig), BF Tennis Club (Las Piñas) and Capitol Tennis Club (Quezon City) will each field 35 of their best players in the event organized by former standout Roland Kraut.

"We want to keep the club spirit alive," said Kraut. "This event will surely up the tempo and excitement in club tennis."

Each tie in the Nassau-backed round-robin tournament will have seven matches—Open doubles 1 and 2, 35-and-above doubles 1 and 2, 45-and-above doubles, 55-and-above doubles and 30-and-above women's doubles.

The team that wins four matches wins the tie. The top four teams advance to the semifinals, with the top two getting the homecourt edge.



Woods, Singh fancy US Open chances at difficult Pinehurst

PINEHURST, North Carolina—Twice champion Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh fancy their chances but the treacherous Pinehurst No. 2 course will have the final say at this week's US Open.

The equal longest layout in the tournament's history at 7,214 yards, the par-70 design by Donald Ross is renowned for its inverted-saucer greens which, after a fortnight of high heat and humidity, will test the 156-strong field to the limit.

"I think this is the hardest US golf course I've played from tee to green and around the greens," world number two Singh told a news conference on Wednesday as he prepared for Thursday's opening round. "It's going to be one hell of a test."

US Masters champion Woods, bidding this week to match Ben Hogan as the only player to win the first two majors of the year on two occasions, agreed.

"Putting the ball in play is going to be at a premium and getting the ball to the green is not an easy task," said the 29-year-old American, who won the US Open at Pebble Beach in 2000 and again at Bethpage Black in 2002.

Woods tied for third when the US Open was last held at Pinehurst in 1999. He believes this week's tournament will provide a much stronger challenge.

"The golf course is playing a little bit more difficult this year with the rough," said the world number one. "It seems like it's higher, thicker and the ball seems to be settling down in the bottom every single time.

Woods is looking forward to Pinehurst's challenge.

"I feel very good," he said. "I like my chances and I'm excited about this opportunity this week. I've been playing well and this entire year has been a process, an evolution of getting better."

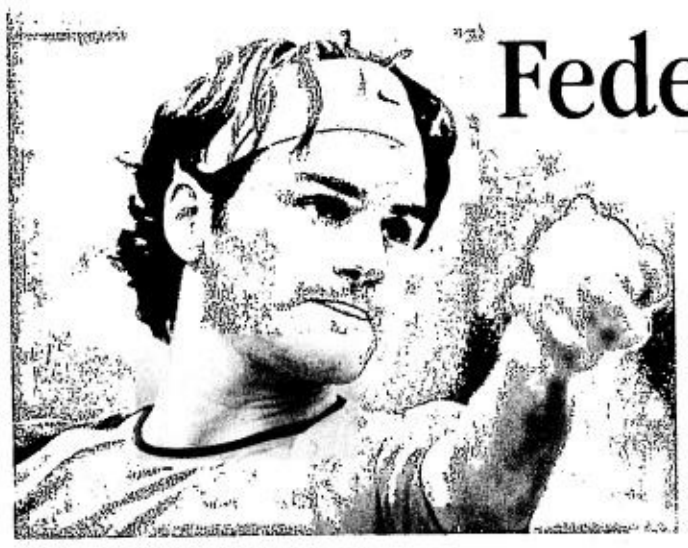
The other three members of golf's so-called "Big Four" were also in upbeat mood.

Three-time major winner Singh said: "I'm feeling good. I've been driving the ball beautifully, my iron shots have been good and I'm actually playing really good.

"I like my chances here, but I have to play well. You've got to do everything well this week."

World number three Ernie Els, US Open champion in 1994 and 1997, feels he is on the brink of playing at his best. *Reuters*

MANU Ginobili shows his injury to Spurs teammate Sean Marks (left) during t



FEDERER: Two-time defending champion AP

Federer, Roddick ranked 1-2 for Wi

LONDON — Roger Federer and Andy Roddick were seeded 1-2 for Wimbledon on Wednesday, setting up a possible rematch of last year's final.

Federer, a two-time defending champion, got the top seeding in line with his world No. 1 ranking.

Roddick was seeded two spots above his ATP ranking, ahead of 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia and French Open champion Rafael Nadal.

Hewitt was seeded No. 3, with Nadal — who has little experience on grass — at No. 4.

Federer beat Roddick 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-4 in last year's final. He has four Grand Slam titles. Roddick won the 2003 U.S. Open.

Among the women, Lindsay Davenport was seeded No. 1, followed by defending champion Maria Sharapova, Amelie Mauresmo and former two-time champion Serena Williams.

Last weekend, Federer won the Wimbledon grass-court tuneup at Halle, Germany, for the third straight year. He's won 29 straight matches on grass; his last loss on the surface was in June 2002 against Mario Ancic in the first round at Wimbledon.

Roddick won the Queen's Club title in London for the third consecutive year on Sunday. He said he thought Hewitt would get the No. 2 seeding.

"You know, either way, I don't think either one of us can be too upset," Roddick said a few days before the seedings were announced. "Common knowledge is that you're going to have to beat the best players somewhere along the way."

The Wimbledon draw, to be held Thursday, will determine whether Hewitt or Nadal will be in the top half and could face Federer in the semifinals. Roddick would be paired against the player drawn in the bottom half.

Andre Agassi, the 1992 Wimbledon champion, withdrew Tuesday because of an injury.

Roddick is the only American man seeded in the top 16, and Taylor Dent (No. 24) the on-

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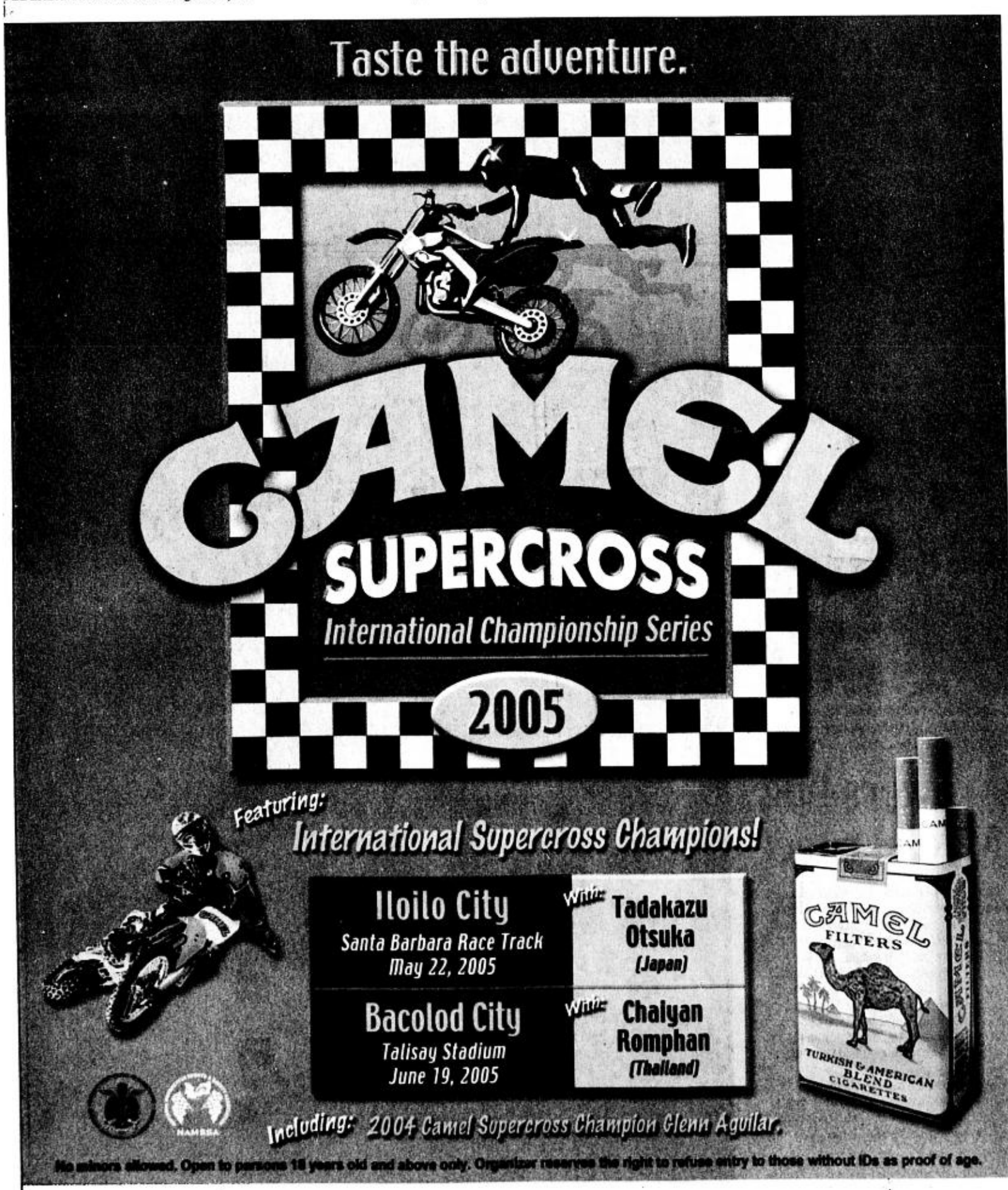
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Powell world after 9.77-se

LONDON— Asafa Powell is the opposite of the trad stead, the softly spoken, deeply religious Jamaica broke the 100 meter world record with a 9.77-se Prix in Athens, shaving one hundredth of a secon set in Paris in 2002.

There was no showboating, no struts in front of the sparse crowd at the stadium where he finished fifth in the 100 at the Olympics last year.

POWELL

Just laughter and smiles—even when it took a minute for his world record time to be confirmed on the scoreboard.

"Everyone's been telling me, for a long time now, that I'm the fastest man in the world," Powell said. "I just proved it."

Powell's run also gave the record a clean slate. Montgomery is under suspicion of doping and his former record time could be wiped out by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"It's really good for the sport," Powell said. "I'll see if I can go faster." *AP*

So pulls away

FIDE Master Wesley So extended his unbeaten run to six in the 6th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship Wednesday at the Hotel Jomtien in Pattaya, Thailand.

The youngest ever Filipino chess master took the measure of Chung Juen-Sen in the sixth round to pace the boys' under-12 with a perfect 6.0 score.

He's 1.5 points clear of Singaporeans Chan Yi-Ren, Chen Kai-Jun and FM Lo Kin-Mun Dominic and Vietnamese Hua Thien Tan with five rounds to go.

Jan Emmanuel Garcia stayed in the hunt in the boys' under-10 after splitting the point with Pham Hoai Nam of Vietnam. He improved to 4.0, a point off FM Chua Xing-Jian Graham of Singapore and Yeap Eng Chiam of Malaysia.

Julius Joseph de Ramos (3.0) bowed to Vo Thanh Ninh of Vietnam in the boys' under-18 and Jesus Alfonso Datu (2.5) lost to Abel Yap Jinwei of Malaysia in the boys' under-16.

Tagaytay leads

IT was Rodolfo Panopio and Allan Macala's turn to shine for powerhouse Tagaytay City in the fifth round of the 2005 National Open Chess Team Championship Wednesday at the St. Michael College Gym in Iligan City.

The team bankrolled by Tagaytay City mayor Bambol Tolentino rolled to its fifth straight win by edging Sum-Ag NHS, 2.5-1.5.

Panopio defeated Ted Montoyo while Macala downed John Verdun to clinch the win and pushed their match point total to 10.

Tagaytay skipper Grandmaster Joey Antonio halved the point with National Master Hamed Nouri while Edmundo Gatus suffered his first loss after bowing to Raymund dela Peña.

Tacloban City A grabbed second spot with eight match points after nipping Metro Toril, 2.5-1.5.

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Ginobili, Spurs want revenge

REUTERS

he NBA Finals practice in Auburn Hills.

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Manu Ginobili left Game 3 of the NBA Finals covered in bruises, from his leg to his pride.

Luckily for the San Antonio Spurs, the Argentine star says he has always been a quick healer.

Ginobili, the dynamic star of the Spurs' victories in the first two games of the series last week, was held to seven points on just six shots in San Antonio's 96-79 loss. Back home in the Detroit suburbs, the Pistons played with all the poise and aggression they lacked in Texas, bullying Ginobili and Tim Duncan into their worst performances in several weeks.

What's more, Ginobili collided with Tayshaun Prince while committing an offensive foul just 21 seconds into the game, aggravating a bruise that first popped up near his right knee in the Western Conference finals against Phoenix.

But Ginobili insists the injury won't limit him in Game 4 on Thursday, when the Spurs will attempt to avoid just their second back-to-back losses of the postseason. He also believes the Spurs can quickly reclaim the mental edge they held so decisively late in the first two games—and then lost in Game 3.

"We didn't do too many things right," Ginobili said before Wednesday's practice at the Palace of Auburn Hills. "We allowed them too many offensive rebounds. We turned the ball over too much. We didn't execute that well. We made too many mistakes. We have to be ready mentally, to be more focused and play with more aggressiveness. We can't let them get us on our heels."

The creative guard controlled the first two games of the series, scoring 53 points and dazzling the hometown fans with a series of difficult shots in the fourth quarters.

Ginobili dazzled nobody in Game 3. His injury and two quick fouls put him on the bench early—and when he returned, Tony Parker was taking the lead in San Antonio's offense. Unable to find a rhythm, Ginobili made six turnovers and didn't respond to the Pistons' increased defensive pressure with any matching urgency.

Detroit coach Larry Brown ran at least four defenders at Ginobili in man-to-man coverage, including stopper Lindsey Hunter. Brown also persuaded his big men to provide quick help on the few occasions Ginobili got into the paint.

It wasn't a new strategy, but it worked: Ginobili failed to find the defensive seams he exploited so impressively in the first two games.

But Popovich believes Ginobili will respond to the setback with a resilience that's been honed since his days as a teenage prodigy. Though Ginobili has made his first big splash in the NBA postseason this spring, the gold medal-winner is no stranger to huge games.

"It's not such a big difference," Ginobili said. "You just realize that you draw more attention, and defenses prepare a little more for you. But I deal with that my whole life. Every summer, I play with the (Argentine) national team, where I'm the go-to guy. I played four years in Italy, where I was the go-to guy.

"It's not that it's something so different, so new for me. It's just the NBA Finals. ... So it can take you out of the basics a little bit, but I don't feel that it's going to be a whole problem for me." *AP*

mbledon

her in the top 32.
the first time since Wimbledon has had more seeds that at least two Americans t make the top 16.
st year, even after Agassi's withdrawal, were two Americans in the top 16 and n the top 32. Wimbledon began seeding ayers in 1968 and expanded to 32 seeds 01.
e All England Club followed the WTA s ranking for the top eight women. There even Russians among the top 13 seeds.
nus Williams, Wimbledon champion in and 2001, was seeded No. 14, two spots e her current world ranking. *AP*

's fastest cond run

tional brash, trash-talking sprinter. In- lets his running speak for him. Powell ond run at the Tsiklitiria Super Grand l off Tim Montgomery's record of 9.78

Energized Pistons seek equalizer

DETROIT, Michigan—etroit Pistons, who have been under fire for a lack of intensity, clawed their way back into the National Basketball Association finals with a bruising win at home in game three.

The Pistons beat the Spurs 96-79 Tuesday but still trail 2-1 in the best-of-seven title series which features the league's two best defensive teams on North American basketball's biggest stage.

If the Pistons can stay energized and match the intensity and aggressiveness they displayed on Tuesday, then they have a good chance of leveling the series at two games apiece, Detroit forward Tayshaun Prince said.

"We just have to keep playing the way we played (Tuesday)," said Prince, who had his best game of the finals with 12 points, six rebounds and five assists.

"When you are down 2-0 you can come out and that energy and effort is going to be there. The difference is now it's 2-1 and game four might be the most important game of the series right now.

WALLACE aims for a repeat. REUTERS

"But we have to take it possession by possession and hopefully we can do it on Thursday."

Detroit will host the next two games while games six and seven, if necessary, would be in San Antonio.

Pistons returned home Tuesday and played more like the team that dismantled the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2004 finals.

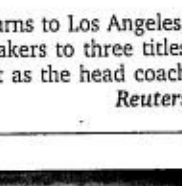
They looked confused and timid in the first two games in Texas, but showed more grit and resolve in their first game at the Palace arena.

And if the Spurs, who won the title in 2003, wants it back they are going to have to wrestle the Pistons for it, Detroit center Ben Wallace said.

Two-time NBA defensive player of the year Wallace was dominant. He set the tone early with a pair of dunks, a steal and a free throw before Detroit went on a 21-6 run late in the game to ice the win.

Detroit became the first team to score more than 89 points against San Antonio in the Spurs 14 NBA finals games. *AFP*

Phil, Kobe to rebuild partnership


JACKSON

WASHINGON—The performance of the Los Angeles Lakers under Phil Jackson could be a mere sideshow compared with watching how the coach fares with temperamental guard Kobe Bryant.

Jackson left the Lakers a year ago and promptly wrote a book detailing how tough it was to coach Bryant, a fabulous talent but a player who was not team-oriented.

Repairing that coach-player relationship is pivotal now that they are reunited, Jackson says.

"I think it's a matter of trust, a matter of rebuilding the trust that we've had," Jackson said this week after being reappointed head coach.

"Kobe called me and congratulated me on the job. I felt confident that he's confident we can move forward."

The Lakers will probably be unable to improve upon last year's 34-48 record. But the team will be under the media spotlight with the Jackson-Bryant saga in full swing.

In his 2004 book, "The Last Season: A team in search of its soul," Jackson said he told Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak he was fed up with Bryant.

Jackson also wrote of a "psychological war" going on between him and Bryant. "I don't believe we've developed enough trust between us to win a championship."

Now Jackson returns to Los Angeles, where he led the Lakers to three titles during his first stint as the head coach from 1999 to 2004. *Reuters*

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5 NASAAN KA MAN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 SHUTTER 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

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SPORTS

Agusan tourney lures country's top darters

THE CREAM of the crop on the local darts scene clash with a sprinkling of foreign entries in the 38th Araw ng Agusan del Norte National Darts Classic, the country's richest tournament which fires off today with a cash pot of P400,000.

The town of Cabadbaran is the venue of the three-day tourney hosted by Gov. John Erlpe Amante to promote tourism in his province.

Darters from the United Arab Emirates and the United States are entered in the event co-organized by the National Dart Foundation of the Philippines headed by its president Tito Soncuya, and the Agusan del Norte Capitol Darts Club headed by Edwin Dacera.

The event is co-sponsored by Robson Sportscraft, PCSO, Globe Telecom, Sportshouse, San Miguel Beer, Jiyuma, and media partner Prime Channel.

SUN STAR 9-BALL

Veterans wary of young guns

FORMER winner Antonio Gabica and last year's runner-up Lee Van Corteza are still the men to beat but the young campaigners remain a potent bunch in the Sun Star Super Balita 9-Ball billiards tournament which fires off June 20 at the SM City Trade Hall in Cebu City.

Collectively called the "Bagong Sibol Boys," the budding stars of the TM Philippine 9-Ball Champions League and the Hope All-Filipino Challenge will vie for top honors against the veterans that include Ronnie Alcano, the newly crowned winner of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour's Manila leg, Warren Kiamko and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam.

Gabica, champion in 2003, and Corteza, however, cautioned the young hopefuls from getting complacent, saying the race to this year's title is expected to be tough.

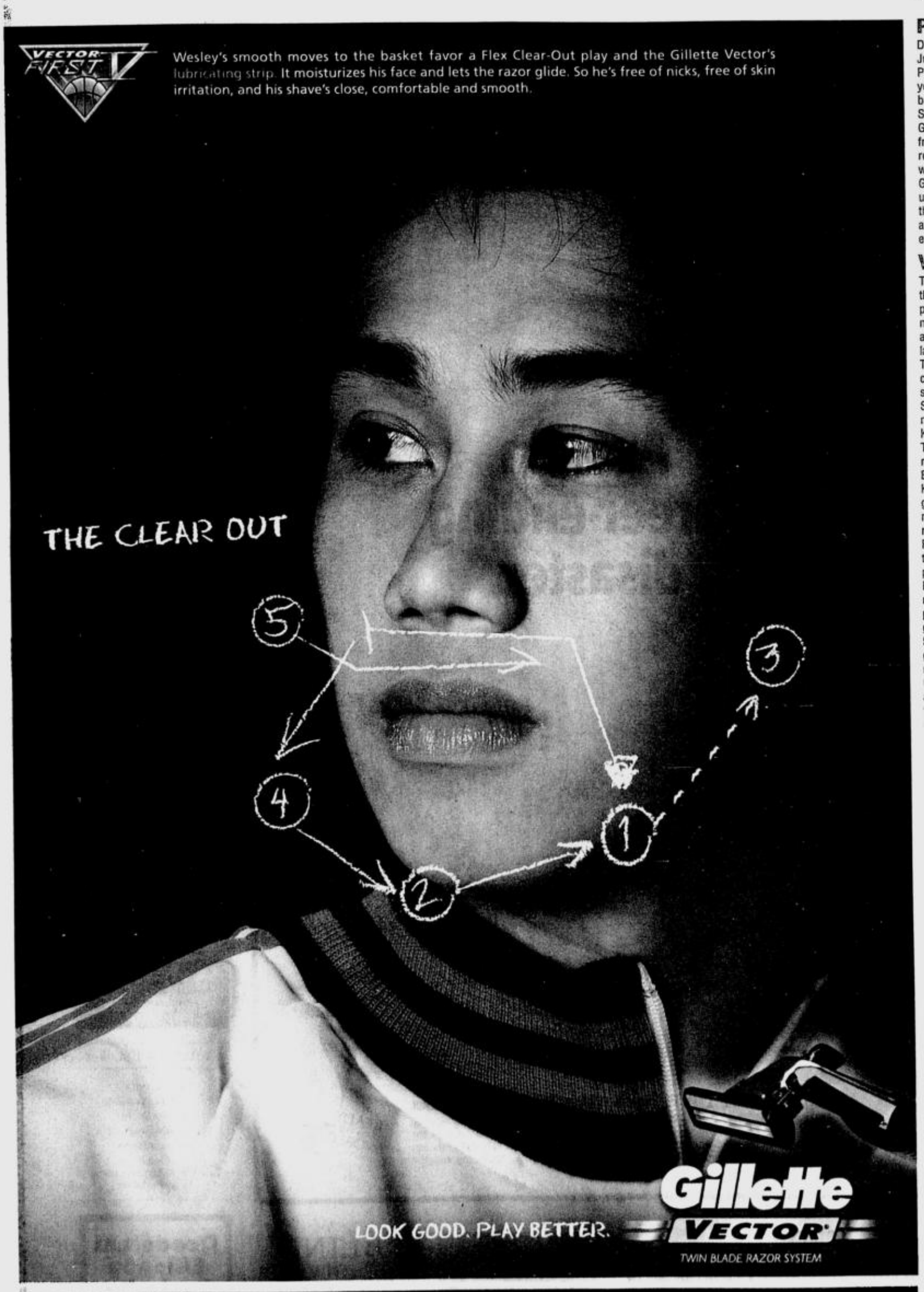
"Yung mga bata, mainit sa laban, pero iba pa rin kapag kalmado ka, relaxed *ang tira* (The greenhorns are hot, but it's different if you're calm, your shots are relaxed)," said Gabica.

"Dapat bantayan ang mga bata dito sa Cebu (Watch out for the young players)," said Corteza.

In last year's finals, Corteza fell in a stunning upset to hitherto-unknown Elmer Haya, 15-12. Haya earned a ticket to the rich Dubai circuit.

Only in their 20s, Richard "The Golden Boy" Aguilar, Carlo Biado, Jharome Peña, Elmer Kalaquian and "Jeff Bata" de Luna are out to rock the established order on the local billiards scene.

"Even the veterans know these young guys are no pushovers," said Ramon Tuason, president of RocketMan Enterprises, which will air the event over IBC-13 from June 23-28 as highlight of his Touch Mobile-sponsored program.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SPORTSWATCH

Pinoy booter joins Coruna

DEPORTIVO: Canada international midfielder Julien "Bobby" de Guzman has joined Spanish Primera Liga club Deportivo La Coruna on a four-year contract. Terms of the contract have not been revealed, though, according to reports in Singaporean newspapers. The 23-year-old De Guzman, who joined La Coruna on a free contract from German side Hanover 96, was taken in as a replacement for Brazilian veteran Mauro Silva, who retired last season. The Philippine-born De Guzman is the only new La Coruna recruit so far under new coach Joaquin Caparros. According to the reports, English Premiership side Tottenham and Dutch club Feyenoord are also said to have expressed interest in the player.

Westin race fires off Sunday

THE FIRST RunWestin Manila fires off at 6 a.m. this Sunday at the Westin Philippine Plaza south parking area in Pasay City with about 1,000 runners expected at the starting line. Organizers said all participants should be at the assembly area not later than 4:30 a.m. to claim their running singlets. The race will be held in partnership with Cathay Pacific as well as Transnational Diversified Group and supported by Smart, Nike, Gourmet and Sun Bolt Sports Drink. At stake is P64,000 in cash developmental awards for the top three finishers of the 10-K and 5-K events for both male and female classes. The top finishers will also receive a pair of Nike running shoes, trophies, and gift packs from Sun Bolt Sports Drink. The overall champion of the 10-K run will represent the Philippines in the prestigious Bridge Run Sydney slated Sept. 11. The winner will receive a cash prize of P10,000 and a round-trip ticket to Sydney, sponsored by Cathay Pacific with a four-day, three nights accommodation at The Westin Sydney. The second and third placers of the 10-K run will receive P7,000 and P5,000, respectively. The winner of the 5-K run will receive P5,000, second placer P3,000, and third placer, P2,000, while top finishers in the six age group categories—13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60 and above—will receive medals and a gift pack from Sun Bolt Sports Drink. Runners may register until today at the G/F Vasquez Madrigal, Greenhills, San Juan or The Westin Sports Club and Spa of The Westin Philippine Plaza. Registration fee is P150.00. For inquiries, call 551-5555 ext. 1587 or 1588.

Pasay 4-cocker under way

MEMBERS of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) collide anew in another special 4-cock derby tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit with more than 50 fights on tap and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. A cash prize of P300,000 is up for grabs in the event hosted by Balahara Samurai Group. Entry fee is P10,000. Among the participants are Joel Fernando, Ramon Mancenares, Rud Moreno, PCCA Cocker of the Year Rey Briones, Pepito Ngo, Cito Manansala, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Lito Roque, Boy Javier, and Mon Torres. Another 4-cock event kicks off next Friday with El Pando Magic as host. Lito Roque will also host a 4-cocker on July 1. Cockers and breeders may call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750 for more details.

Super Special Derby set

THE WORLD Slasher Cup fever is still on but preparations are already under way for the NCA Super Special 6-Cock Derby, another big event slated June 23 at the Araneta Coliseum. This one-day derby is hosted by 330 K Big Event Derby champion Dicky Lim of San Juan Coliseum, Patrick Antonio, Georgie Antonio and Gov. Ito Ynañes of the National Cockers Association who will also field their respective entries. Some 25 selected bigtime cockers have been invited for the slambang showdown. "Aficionados can expect at least 70 premium fights," said Antonio. Participants must submit entries on Wednesday, June 22, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum green gate. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928. Meanwhile, the World Slasher Cup championship round sizzles at 4 p.m. tomorrow at the same venue with 68 fights on tap.

RACING TIPS

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Race 4—1. Speed Majesty 2. Hazmagic 3. Siempre Naman

Race 5—1. Sunline 2. Fabiola/Shades of Red 3. Straight Free 4. Cool Charger

Race 6—1. American Beauty 2. Like Kevin 3. Riah's Bell 4. Ocean Dignity

Race 7—1. Ocean Cookie 2. Sutter's Wealth 3. Blue Sheikh 4. U Are My Sunshine

Race 8—1. Carte Blanche 2. Island King 3. Bealitudes 4. Voice of Destiny

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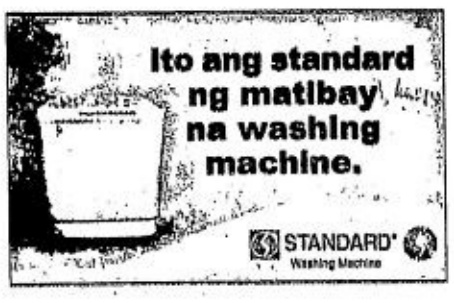

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A2

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Sharon Cuneta in the US

WITH guests Ogie Alcasid and Robert Seña. "Ate Shawie" cracked jokes galore, succeeding each time, especially when she gamely poked fun at herself.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Early into her concert here last Saturday, **Sharon Cuneta** choked with emotion when the house lights at the Shrine Auditorium were turned on, at her request, and she saw the near-capacity crowd. After all, "The Return of the Champions"—starring young singing talent search winners **Sarah Geronimo, Erik Santos, Christian Bautista, Rachel Ann Go, Mark Bautista** and **Frenchy Dy**—was playing at a nearby venue. It was unfortunate that two major Filipino concerts were scheduled on the same evening.

Sharon was touched, and for good reason. Most visiting Pinoy acts these days are lucky to even fill a venue to half its capacity.

It had been many, many years since I last saw Sharon in a live performance, so I watched from a fresh perspective. I had always known that Sharon was a capable performer. But I was surprised at the end of the show dubbed "Megatour 2005" to realize that she was more than just capable; she was, in fact, a very good singer and entertainer.

Time and experience have apparently made Sharon an infinitely better performer than I remember. At the venerable Shrine Auditorium, she exhibited an effortless singing style, perfect diction, eloquence, natural warmth, obvious joy in what she was doing, and doing best—entertaining a big crowd.

Sense of humor

Best of all, she displayed a remarkable sense of humor and the ability to make fun of herself. At the beginning of the show, the performer, who is fondly dubbed "Megastar," put on a serious face and said she is bothered by rumors being spread about her. "*Mataba daw ako*!" she cracked and that set the jovial tone of the evening. Sharon's references to her size these days became her running joke throughout the show. She called herself the "national sex symbol of the Philippines."

When singer-composer **Jim Brickman** made a surprise appearance onstage, "Ate Shawie" appeared delightfully surprised but quipped, to the audience's great amusement, "*Diyos ko, ayaw ko sanang magpakita sa kanya hanggang 24 na ulit ang baywang ko.*" When the spotlight couldn't be focused on her for some reason, she joked, "*Sa laki ko ba naman, hindi pa ako makita*!" She also said, "I already lost 18 pounds—555 more to go." Then she posed sideways and said, "OK *na sana kaya lang parang may naiwang bata sa loob.*"

Sharon's fans, who screamed "I love you!" every now and then, loved her even more for mocking herself. A man shouted, "I love you, Kiko!" referring to Sharon's husband, Sen. **Francisco Pangilinan**, who was in the audience that evening. Of course, that amused everyone, especially Sharon.

The singer was apparently nursing a cold but her voice was strong and clear. Had she not become Megastar, Sharon could have made a fine career as a serious pop artist. As it is, she is Megastar first and foremost, who sings well, just like that other superstar, Nora Aunor. Screams drowned out Sharon's songs, fans had to be waved at and she had to pose for pictures in the middle of numbers.

For me, the best numbers are the songs that are not too associated with her. Like her spontaneous number, "Valentine," with the song's composer himself, Jim, on the keyboard. At least that tune showed what she could do if she broke away from her standard songs. Indeed, she added some improvisational touch toward the end of this ballad.

She is more than a capable performer; she is a very good singer and entertainer

Guests

Sharon also sang with guest **Ogie Alcasid**. They performed compositions from her latest CD on Sony BMG Music Entertainment, "Sharon Sings Alcasid." She proudly introduced Ogie as one of the top composers in the Philippines today. Ogie also amused the crowd with funny routines between his solo numbers.

Another guest, **Robert Seña**, provided a touch of gravity with his "serious" songs. Since Robert has great credentials, notably "Miss Saigon," "emote na emote" *siya* in his numbers with Sharon and Ogie. It was a hoot to watch Robert; I was impressed with his vocal depth and range. However, he should lose the *barong* he wore that night. To me it seemed like another attempt to "deconstruct" the Filipino national shirt but this one ended up making Robert look like he was wearing an apron. OK, make that an ethnic-inspired apron.

US-based **Fe de los Reyes** was a riot, as usual. I reiterate my wish for Fe to go for the mainstream US comedy scene. She certainly has what it takes to make it bigger. But aside from a new number, in which she hilariously sang regional ditties from "Pamulinawen" to "Atin Cu Pung Singsing" in the manner of **Alicia Keys, Gwen Stefani** and company, she did her old routines. Still, the audience lapped up the oft-told jokes about the Pinoys' use of the *balikbayan* box ("It's the Filipino Samsonite"), some of our *kababayans'* practice of buying an outfit and then, after wearing the garment one time at a party, returning it to the store for a refund, and how the Costco stores, with its array of free food samples, can feed the entire Pinoy family, gratis.

It's time, however, for Fe to come up with new jokes.

Sharon also called onstage "Star Search" champion **Mark Mejia**, who was there as a spectator. When Mega asked Mark for a brief sample of his singing prowess, he launched into an impressive rendition of **Jimmy Webb's** puzzling lament about someone leaving the cake out in the rain (you know the title).

Also in the audience was a Japanese guy, a big Sharon fan, who, according to the star herself, learned Tagalog just so he can understand her movies. This man goes to Manila just to watch the latest movie of Sharon, whose performance in Unitel's "Crying Ladies" earned praises from American film critics. And there the man was again, having traveled all the way from Japan just to see his idol in an LA concert.

Mega then asked the crowd to join her in singing the birthday song to **Jackie Regala Katigbak**, former Manila reporter who is now a successful concert producer (she and husband **Gerry Katigbak** line-produced this show for Artist House International, which is led by **Sandra Chavez**).

By the way . . .

Incidentally, why do some of our *kababayans* think it is perfectly OK to gab on their cell phones while a concert is in progress? Yes, we Filipinos do love our songs loud to the point where an audience member can yak on his cell and not be heard by the entire house. But when you're seated right beside one, as I was with a man who didn't even bother to whisper to his cell and talked loudly for several minutes as if he were in his living room, it was very annoying and distracting. Not to mention very rude.

One of Sharon's many "final" songs was "Ako Ay Pilipino." While this song is stirring and is guaranteed to bring a crowd of overseas Filipinos on its feet, I dare Pinoy composers and arrangers to come up with fresh closing show numbers. "Ako Ay Pilipino" has become such a cliché closing number in shows for "da Filipino community." Just like Florante's "Handog" became a cliché anthem for over-the-hill divas a while ago.

Sharon's introduction to this George Canseco rouser, however, is anything but clichéd. She spoke eloquently and from the heart in defense of the Philippines, especially in the light of the political storms hovering over our nation.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com)

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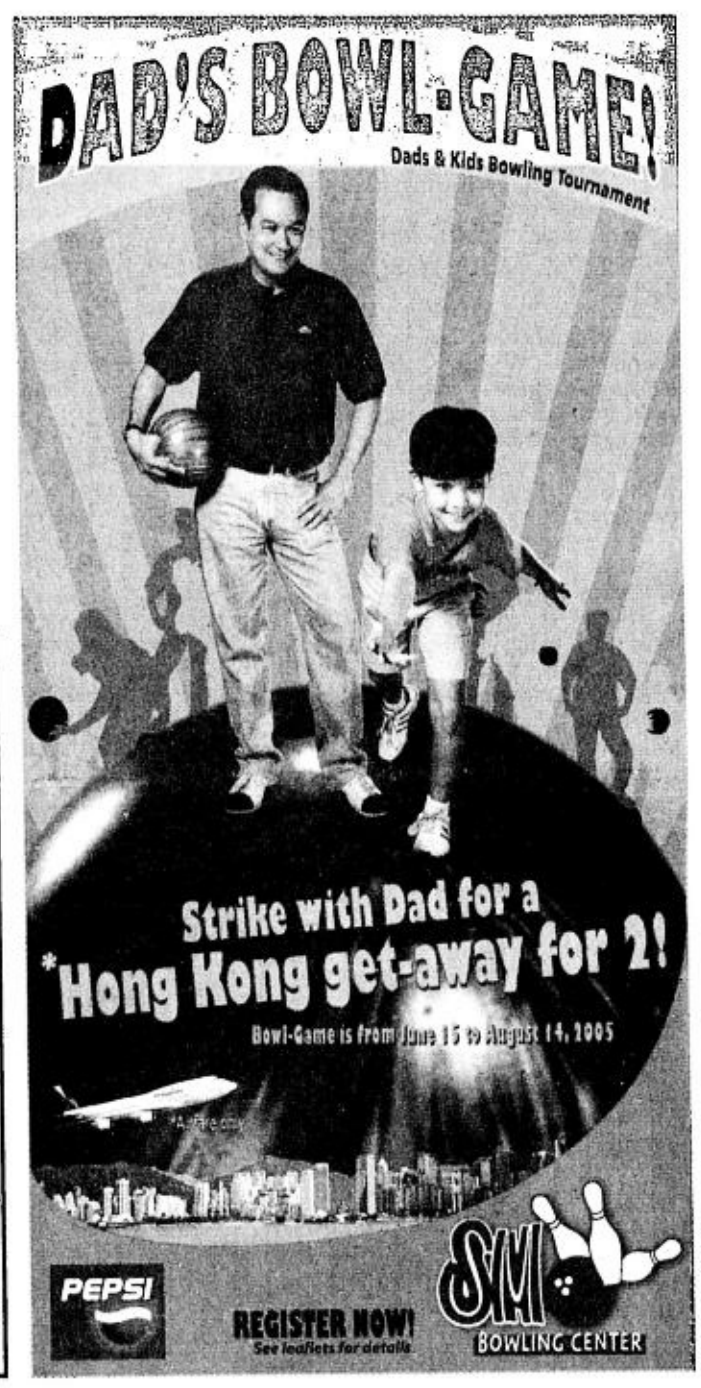
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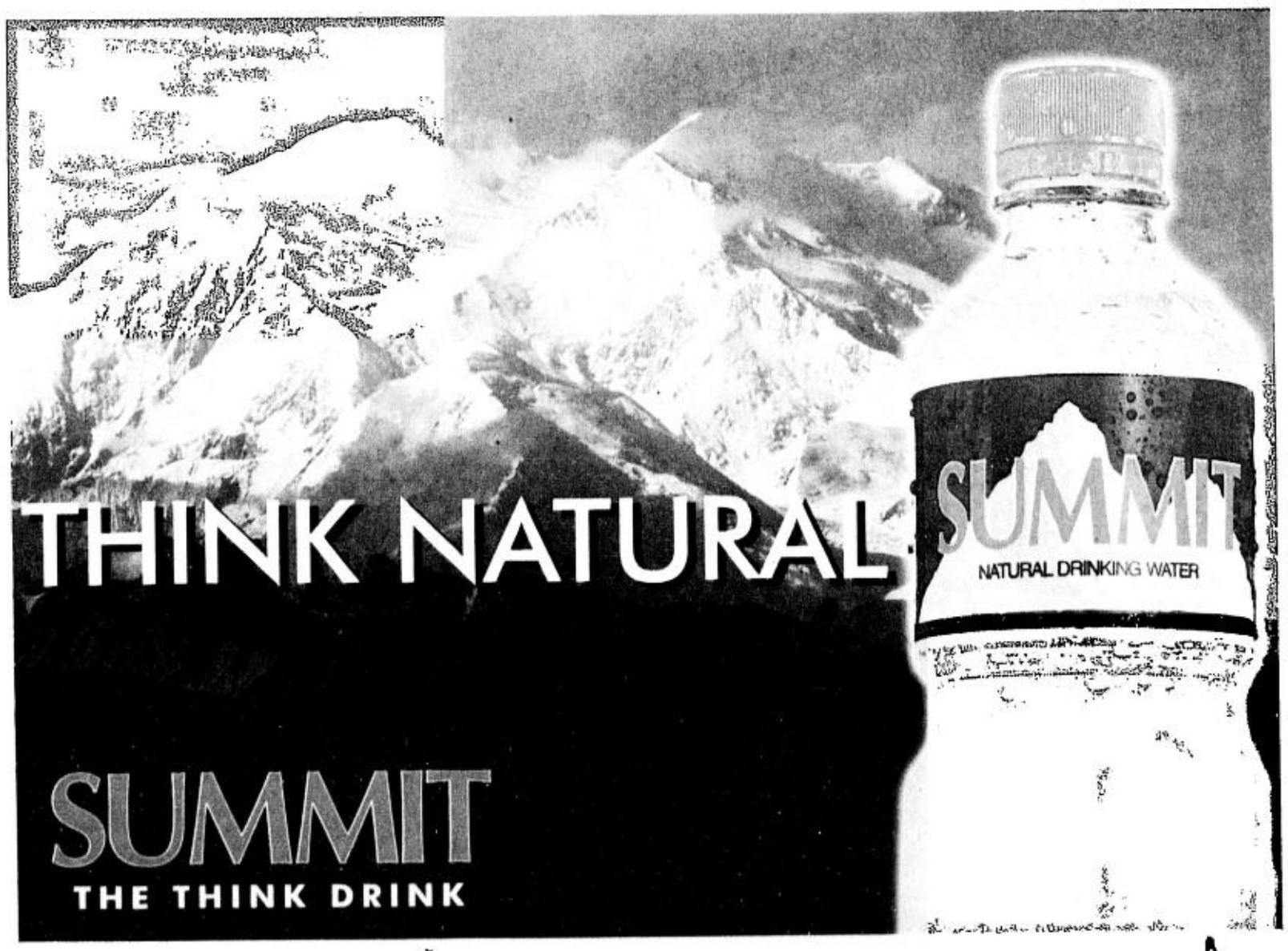


Eyes wide open

Talented student participants in ABC 5's 'Dokyu' out to reinvent reality TV

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MAKE no mistake. The people behind the new ABC 5 show "Dokyu" (Wednesdays, 10 p.m.) do not seek to drastically alter the face of television as we know it.

Their gung-ho idealism is tempered by a pragmatism that comes with experience. Jim Libiran, head of Production, News and Public Affairs, has been a journalist for over two decades. Dodge M. Dillague, creative director, has worked for some 10 years as broadcaster.

"'Dokyu' is our modest contribution," Libiran says. "We just want to make viewers realize that there is an alternative."

And students are taking center stage.

"Their works were very raw," Libiran says. "And many used inexpensive cameras."

Dillague adds, "Their materials could breathe freely, too, because they were not saddled by baggage, such as ratings or pressures from management, advertisers and the censors ... or the bottom line (profit)."

Made to jolt

Their only concern was getting a good grade.

Faced with about 3,000 submitted works, mostly theses and sundry school projects, the "Dokyu" screening team was looking for something specific, namely, "documentaries that would jolt us with a fresh look at society," Libiran points out.

"Some students merely mimicked what we currently see on television," Dillague recounts.

"But those [picked for airing] have jumped away from traditional documentary-making," Libiran says. "We need to reinvent storytelling. The reporter's intervention should be as minimal as possible. The reporter is not the only source of truth."

"We even picked some that have no voiceover," Dillague adds. "The subjects themselves tell the story."

An example is "Tunay na Buhay," which assumes the viewpoint of the young daughter of a *sorbetero* (ice-cream vendor).

"The girl narrates her family's story," Dillague says. "In the process, the docu makes a comment on poverty."

Made by University of the Philippines Diliman student Jasper Chavez Zarzwela three years ago, "Tunay na Buhay" was nominated in this year's Urian Awards for Best Short Film.

Common themes

The "Dokyu" team discerned common themes that helped them divide the first season (13 episodes with 2 docus each) into several strands—education, poverty, gay life, indigenous people, among others.

Adrian Gret of the University of Santo Tomas made "Embalsamador," a peek into the world of morticians.

Letran students Jessica Lacambra, Susan Caronan, and Kristen Gonzalez submitted "Bakas ng Lahar," which tackles the effect of the Pinatubo eruption on the lives of indigenous tribes. "It won a Catholic Mass Media Award in 2004," Dillague beams.

Another CMMA finalist was UP Diliman coed Ferry Joseph Trinidad's "Krus ng Quiapo," which zooms in on folk practices right outside the Catholic landmark.

"Dokyu" viewers are invited to grade the students' works via SMS.

"This is just Phase One," says Dillague. "For Phase Two, we'd like professionals and other enthusiasts to show their works."

"For Phase Three, we plan to do something like Project Greenlight," Libiran says—like Hollywood hotshots Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, who gave aspiring screenwriters the chance to shoot their dream movies. "Dokyu" also wishes to solicit proposals from viewers and award the winning entries with budgets.

Libiran stumbled upon the idea for "Dokyu" two years ago, when he attended the Stockholm Documentary Festival for ABS-CBN's "The Correspondents."

When he transferred to ABC 5 a year ago, the concept stayed with him. "We wanted a show that was affordable but cutting-edge."

Future of TV

And since some members of the team, like Dodge, Ramon Bautista, and host Anne Torres, were also teachers, they knew of some students who were better than professionals.

Dillague, who used to direct "Debate" on GMA-7 and teach at the UP and St. Scholastica's, has a tip for aspirants: "When choosing a docu subject, think short, small, and local. Pick something that will touch your heart and is within your field of experience."

Libiran and Dillague agree: "The future of television is in the campuses."

FUTURE of Pinoy television (from left): Adrian Gret (UST), Noni Inciong (CEU), Marlene Alcaide (Letran), host Anne Torres, Jasper Zarzwela (UP), Robert Wacker (Letran), Benedict John Navarro (La Salle), Ma. Erica Juinio (UP), John Marc Diego (CEU), Odessa Co (St. Paul) and Raffy Jimeno (Letran)

Network says Hero's brother ignored calls

By Marinel R. Cruz

ABS-CBN did not drop Hero Angeles, winner of "Star Circle Quest" 2004, just like that. Hero's manager refused to discuss with executives the network's plans for its young talent.

Deo Endrinal, ABS-CBN vice president for Talk, Variety, and Reality, said as much in a statement he sent to INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday.

Reaction

Endrinal was reacting to a story published in this section on the same day that said Hero had been dropped from two out of three shows.

Hero is no longer with the Sunday variety show "ASAP Fanatic" or the teen program "SCQ Kilig Ako." His only remaining show is "Nginig," whose final episode airs on June 25.

Endrinal said Senior Vice President for Star Magic (ABS-CBN's talent center) Johnny Manahan invited Hero early last week to a discussion of the network's plans, but that Hero's manager and brother, Henry Angeles, said he would show up on condition that the meeting be held on "neutral ground" and in the presence of Hero's lawyer.

"The meeting didn't push through," said Endrinal, "because Star Magic never conducted career-planning meetings with lawyers present."

Henry earlier said there was no new project or show lined up for Hero, and that they had "no clear communication" with ABS-CBN. He said they learned the actor had been dropped from "ASAP" via text.

Endrinal argued, "We have never [informed artists and staff members of] program cancellations or reformats via text messages."

There were "no clear communications," Endrinal said, "because Henry refused to take calls from the assigned talent handler, Ien Gonzales."

Gonzales was informed of the changes in "Fanatic" as early as June 6, Endrinal said, adding that when Henry called him on June 10, he had to "personally explain" to the latter the show's new concept.

On rotation

The reformat involved retaining only eight SCQ artists per week, Endrinal said. Hero could still be part of the "regular pool of eight ... on a rotating basis," he added.

Henry had argued that a slot in "ASAP" was among Hero's prizes for landing in "SCQ's" Magic Five. But Endrinal said the "ASAP" reformat began on June 12, or after the Magic Five had fulfilled their yearlong hosting commitments.

SCQ celebrated its first anniversary on June 5.

Prizes delivered

"ABS-CBN, through contracts with television, Star Cinema and Star Magic, has [delivered] the P2 million cash and contract prizes ... that Hero was entitled to," said Endrinal.

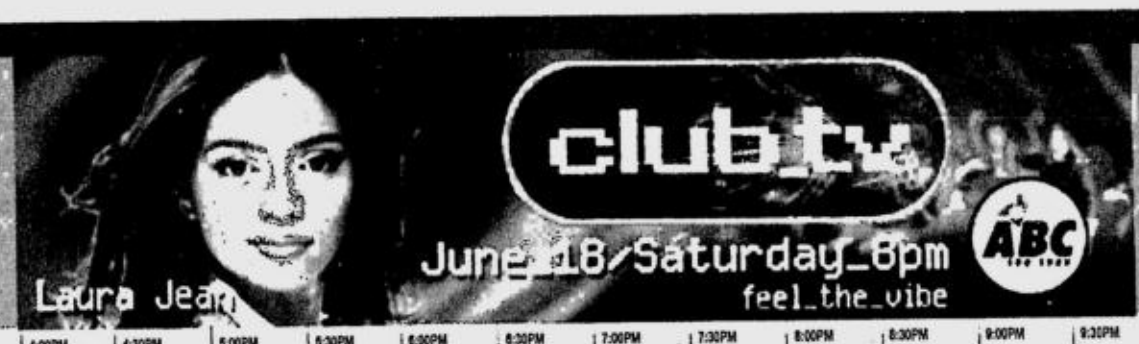
Besides, he added, Hero was contracted to host the show for only one month, and not for the whole season.

Endrinal said a general assembly for cast members, presided by business unit head and "SCQ Kilig Ako!" director Lauren Dyogi, was set on June 7. He denied Henry's claim that Hero was not invited, and in fact insisted that the young actor was there. "Henry accompanied Hero during the assembly, but did not join the meeting [afterwards]," said Endrinal.

Henry earlier said, "We don't understand what's happening. All we know is,

NETWORK/ A2-7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Friday, June 17, 2005



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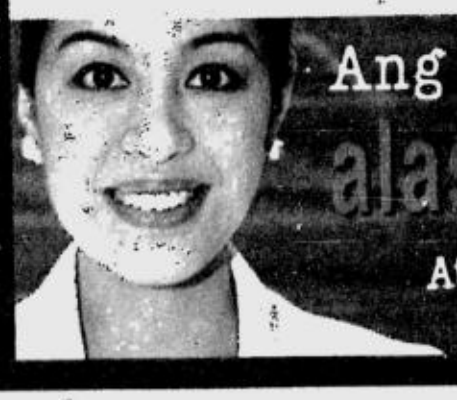
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Shakey's V-League		Joe Schmo Show			TM-9 Ball		IBC News Tonite		GMA The Working Pros
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		As Told By Ginger	Yakitty Yak	WWE: Judgement Day				The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Snack Pak: Avatar: The Last Airbender		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Chakizone	Rocket Power				Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Club MYX	Star MYX			OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development				Average Joe				The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Okay Ka Fairy Ko: The Movie				Annabelle Huggins Story				Dahil Ba Sa Kanya				Alfredo Lim: Bayan Muna				Laro Sa Baga	
Studio 23						X-Men Evolution		The Batman	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights		Andromeda (Season IV)					Just Shoot Me
AXN		Bet Your Life		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Worst Case Scenario	Spiderman	The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	Totally Outrageous Behavior				Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful				Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia		TNA Wrestling		World News					
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	Friends	World News Asia		Pharoah's Wrath				Your World Today	
National Geographic		Surviving Everest				Visions Of Everest		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow	World Sport	About Asia		NBA Greatest Game				Battle Of The X-Planes	
Solar Sports			TV Shopping										Sports Desk	Life & Style					
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Motto Motto	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bil Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Tours Of The Sun		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Robinson Crusoe PT 1	
HBO				A Very Brady Sequel (4:05PM)			Dumb And Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd (5:35PM)			The Big Preview: Batman Begins	Dragonstorm							Maximum Risk (10:55PM)	
Star Movies				Bulletproof Monk (3:50PM)			Book Of Days (5:35PM)			A Life Less Ordinary				Joe Dirt			Starship Troopers		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Zoids Fusors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
ESPN							Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '05							U.S. Open Golf Championship Sportscenter at the US open					Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfaithful Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	StreetBall: The 2004 and 1 Mix tape tour	Sportscenter Asia	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	A Goofy Movie	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Lion King 3 Hakuna Matata	
Cinemax			Elmore Leonard's Gold Coast	Eight Legged Freaks			True Colors				Eight Legged Freaks (7:20PM)			So Little Time			Deep Evil (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Sue Thomas: FB Eye		HCA: The Fairytailor	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: FB Eye		Sue Thomas: FB Eye		Out Of Bounds			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: FB Eye
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Great Quakes		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Weather: Cold		Extraordinary Experience: Cleopatra's Lost City		Crime Night	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Got Spotted		MTV Classic (Vol 2)		ITVNN: They Wanted A Famous Face	MTV Dives		Newlywods	Wanna Come In	Faking the Video	Laguna Beach	On Board at MTV	MTV Screen	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus					Inside the PGA	Memorial Tournament Highlights			Nopi Turtlerversion	The Search TV	Golf Hawaii 2004	Monster Jam		FMX		Inside the PGA	Booz Allen Classic Highlights		Golf Hawaii 2004

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ INQ TV TV

A Rizal movie still waiting to be made

By Ophellia San Juan
Contributor

WHEN THE Rizal Centennial Commission decided to forego an ambitious movie project on Dr. Jose Rizal because of economics, another opportunity was lost to add to the knowledge of the national hero among the young and the masses.

So now we may continue to have school children who do not know the connection between Dapitan and Rizal, and beauty contestants who would grope to name at least three of the hero's siblings while easily recalling that La Toya is Michael Jackson's sister.

The Rizal Centennial movie was doomed early on. A Hollywood scriptwriter agreed to come to the Philippines for preliminary research, but demanded $60,000 for the storyline, approved or not. Of course, the film committee (this writer included, with Celia Diaz-Laurel and the late Zeneida Amador) immediately agreed to drop the grand concept.

A major Hollywood studio could have produced the movie but it would have entailed hiring an internationally recognized screenwriter such as the one earlier contacted by the Centennial Commission, and bankable stars who would very likely have demanded for the finished script before signing up.

Now that the pressure of a centennial celebration is over, it should be possible for a more modest, but not necessarily less artistic, film to be made on any aspect of the hero's life.

Sober budget

Still on the international level will be a movie based on his travels abroad, focused on either the writing of "Noli me Tangere" or his romantic dalliances. From the experience of the Rizal Centennial Commission, the foreign countries' cooperation on such a project will be tremendous.

The Commission at the time was also shown an excerpt of a movie being produced in Madrid, Spain by Perla Primicias, daughter of the late Assemblyman Primitivo Primicias. An Argentine tango and flamenco expert, Perlita has her handsome, dashing son portraying the young Jose Rizal. I remember him on horseback as Rizal doing the Madrid scene.

Truly, an international film can still be produced on Dr. Jose Rizal using a sober Filipino budget, with lots of foreign cooperation.

If the ignorance of Filipino children about our national hero is disturbing, their lack of awareness of the less publicized Filipino figures, especially those before and after the revolution against Spain, is distressing. How many would be able to answer readily, for example, who Tomas Claudio or Tomas Capinpin is?

Filipino achievements need exposure badly. If TV game shows would only incorporate some less known heroes and heroic exploits in their questions, awareness of them would equal the knowledge of many of us who, under Uncle Sam's paternal presence, became admirers of Nathan Hale's patriotism and Paul Revere's ride!

A prophet need not always be less known in his homeland than abroad.

And filming the Rizal story on his travels need not be a daunting task. We have done one in Milan, we can do another in Paris or Berlin. The popularity of Rizal in Germany is such that streets there are named for him and the apartment where he stayed is still preserved under national care.

Foreign exposure

Tapping the foreign governments' cooperation on such a project will also be a means to giving our films more exposure and respect abroad.

The adventurous Filipinos' travels to distant locations, then as now, are rich material for movie exploitation. The Ilocanos' establishment of a foothold and eventual growth in Hawaii is well-known. We are not merely domestic helpers and entertainers there, but a considerable political and social presence.

Whatever the exploits are, be it Tomas Claudio's heroic fight with the American army in France during World War I, or the Filipino World War II veterans' lobbying in the US Congress, they are deserving of depiction before Filipino youths.

Incidentally, it is worthwhile noting that the French embassy in Manila, over the years, is encouragingly and continuously involved in the Tomas Claudio story, more so perhaps than the United States government, whom the hero served and died for.

Death and martyrdom are certainly dark and heavy subjects. They are not recommended for movies and entertainment, and it is time perhaps to put them to a rest in the case of Dr. Jose Rizal. His vibrant, meaningful life has a lot more to offer than his death by musketry in Bagumbayan. His birth on June 19 should be celebrated as much as Dec. 30's tragic event.

ONE Rizal movie that saw the light of day starred Cesar Montano and was directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

TV is big on makeovers

QUITE a number of TV shows on both cable and free channels these days are big on "makeovers." They take homely or dowdy people literally off the streets, and in only a few hours, transform them into much better-looking versions of their original selves.

These minor makeup and fashion "miracles" are pulled off by teams of beauty experts. In the process of working on the shows' "transformees," they give viewers tips on how to jazz up their own looks and lives.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

That's the appeal of the makeover craze on TV: It gives "ordinary" viewers a measure of hope that they too can become less dowdy, and generate more excitement in their own existence.

The ante goes even higher when not just individuals are worked on, but entire homes. On **Oprah Winfrey**'s show, the process has been fine-tuned to whip up the most enthusiastic audience involvement and even participation. A call is periodically sent out for viewers to submit videos of really ugly homes for the program's experts to transform.

Interestingly, the owners of these truly ghastly homes aren't embarrassed to reveal how yuckily they live. In fact, they're even proud to show proof positive of their awesome atrocious taste!

We also note that Oprah's resident home makeover experts are invariably great-looking guys. The gender bias is due to the fact that the majority of Oprah's loyal viewers are women, so the program gives them all those hunks to ogle and hanker for.

Ironically, one of Oprah's experts had to blow his hunky cover and reveal he was gay, when his lifetime partner died in the Asian killer tsunami, and he cried on Oprah's shoulder on a subsequent telecast, in full view of millions. Sorry about that, ladies...

In any case, the home transformations on Oprah's show and other cable programs are truly impressive. Aside from their visual magic act, home makeovers on TV communicate an important message: you are how you live.

Also: to feel good, you need to live well, and you owe it to yourself to make your home, especially your bedroom, a beautiful, peaceful refuge.

Expectedly, the makeover craze on US TV has been adapted by some local television productions. For instance, Charlene Gonzales' Channel 2 show last Sunday treated a young

TV IS BIG/ A2-5

150 bands. 10 genres. 8 stages.
One night.

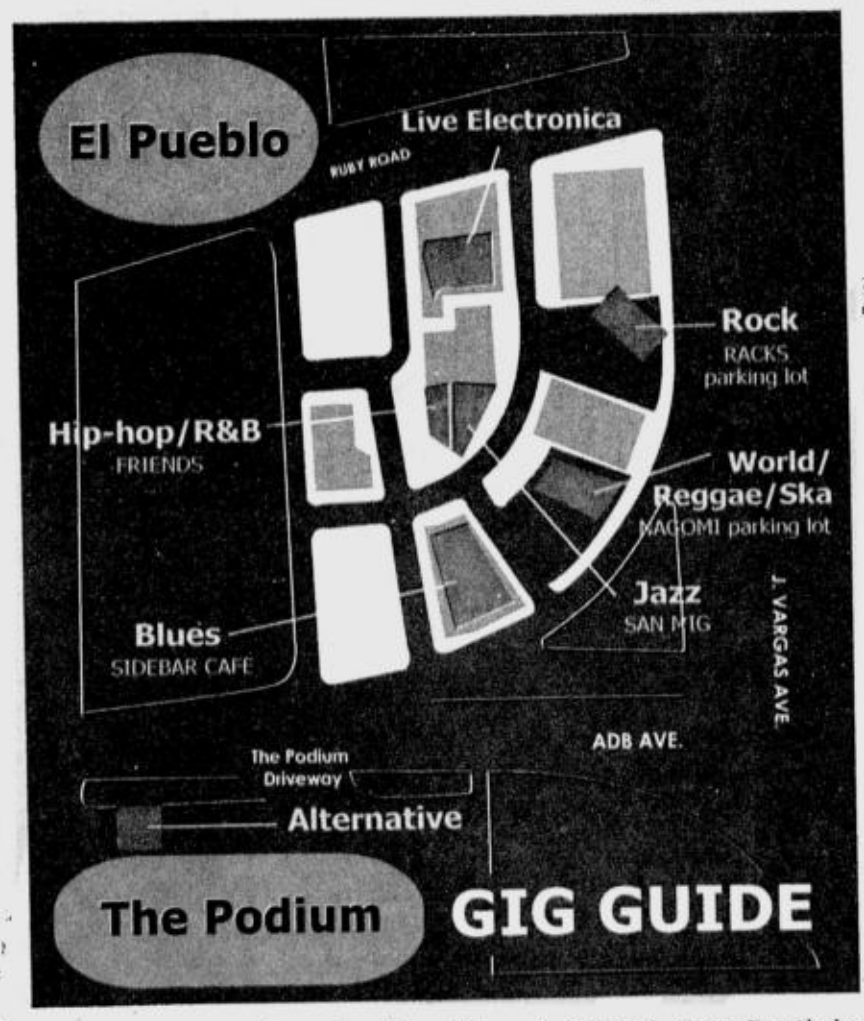
AllianceFrançaise de Manille

Fête de la MUSIQUE

Manille 18 Juin 2005

National Commission for Culture and the Arts

June 18, Saturday, 2005
El Pueblo & The Podium



Alternative Ang Bandang Shirley, Barbie's Cradle, Bobby Parks Movement, Bridge, Cueshe, Dale Ibay, Dirty Kitchen, Hale, Hiraya, Juan Pablo Dream, Kiko Machine, Kinetic Daze, Kitchie Nadal, Milk 'N Money, Mojofly, Mozzie, Moonstar88, Mush Carnival, Olympic Smoker, Nancy Drool, Narda, Salindiwa, Paramita, Pedicab, Pinoy Stories, Pinwheel, Rinka, Rocksteady, SessionRoad, Sheila and the Insects, Sino Sikat?, Splitcide, Spongecola, Stonefree, Sundownmuse, The Late Isabel, UpDharmaDown, **Blues** Blue Jean Junkies, Bluesviminda, DC Aftershock, Freeway Jam, Huka, Mr. Crayon, Naked Tongue, Sammy Asuncion, Taglay Sinag, The Jerks **Electronica** Bagetsafonik, Chox, Daydream Cycle, Dayuhan, Drip, Flipperbaby, Crystal Echo, Makkina, Morse, Names Are For Tombstones, Neon8, One Lone Clone, Rubber Inc, Silverfilter, Skies of Ember, Trip M, Wolfmann **Hip-hop/R&B** 7 Shots, Audible, Butta Flava, Ginn & Razor Ray, Gloc 9, Joycelyn, Kaliph8, Mike Swift, Miscellaneous Out of Body Special, Pikaso, Syke, Sun Valley Crew, Turbulence **Jazz** Bo Razon, Isha, Jazz Volunteers, Johnny Alegre Affinity, Mishka Adams & The Blue Echoes, Mother Earth, Quail Quintet, Skarlet & Jazz Friends, Sound, Subconcept, Wahijuara **Rock** 13 Needles, Boldstar, Boy Elroy, Cambio, Chicosci, Ciudad, Cog, Death by Tampon, Dicta License, DRT, Greyhoundz, Happy Meals, Hellbender, Imago, Itchyworms, Join the Club, Kapatid, Kinky Hooters, Kjwan, Mayonnaise, Monkeyspank, Monsterbot, Nuncy Spungen, Plane Divides the Sky, Razorback, Rugis, Sandwich, Severo, Shards of Ice, Silent Sanctuary, Sique, Still, Sugarfree, Taggu nDios, The Brockas, Twisted Halo, Typecast, Zoom Zoom Lunacy, **World/Reggae/Ska** Bayang Barrios, Brass Munkeys, Brownbeat All-Stars, Butong Pakwan, Cynthia Alexander, Garlic, Hairy Dawgz, Hemp Republic, Indio I, Junior Kilat, Kadangyan, Loquy, Makiling Ensemble, Nityalila, Pinikpikan, Radioactive Sago Project, Reggae Mistress, Sing India, SPY, Tropical Depression, Yerbaguena

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Father's Day at Edsa Shangri-La

HE'S YOUR hero, your idol, and the most handsome man in the world. You're proud to call him dad.

Edsa Shangri-La celebrates Father's Day with a full range of special treats.

And because it's dad's turn to be served, treated and pampered, Edsa Shangri-La's Father's Day is all about him. Treat dad to a meal for the manly man at Garden Café, featuring a bountiful lunch and dinner buffet of international specialties, with action stations such as prime rib and lechon carvery. At Summer Palace, lunch and dinner set menus of authentic Cantonese specialties spell a festive celebration for the king of your heart. Bring dad to Nishiki for the Japanese lunch buffet of sushi, sashimi, maki, soba, tempura, sukiyaki, and other all-time favorites. Or have a perfect lunch date with dad at Paparazzi, as resident Italian chef Domenico Acampora prepares a buffet of antipasti, hot entrees, soup, homemade pasta and desserts. From June 1 to 30, the Bakeshop spoils dad with premium Swiss chocolates, fiery Tabasco pralines, gourmet cakes and French pastries. To reserve at any of the restaurants, call 633-8888 ext. 2738 to 39. Then, take dad to a relaxing retreat right in the heart of the city with Edsa Shangri-La's Father's Day Room Package, from June 17 to 19. Enjoy an overnight stay in a Superior Room with breakfast buffet for two, complimentary use of the Health Club facilities such as the gym, jacuzzi and cold plunge and a complimentary Father's Day cake for only P4,200++.

This June at Dusit's Fiesta San Miguel

HOT from the pot. Fiesta San Miguel offers another twist to enjoy a hefty meal. Have a warm meal served fresh this rainy season as Fiesta San Miguel presents the Filipino "Hot Pot" - the popular Asian tabletop cooking. Diners will have their choice of broth, vegetables and can choose either the meat or seafood platter to create their own "Hot Pot" creation. Filipino "Hot Pot" serving is good for two (2) to five (5) persons. Experience this Filipino offering, with a unique twist, for the entire month of June and July 2005.

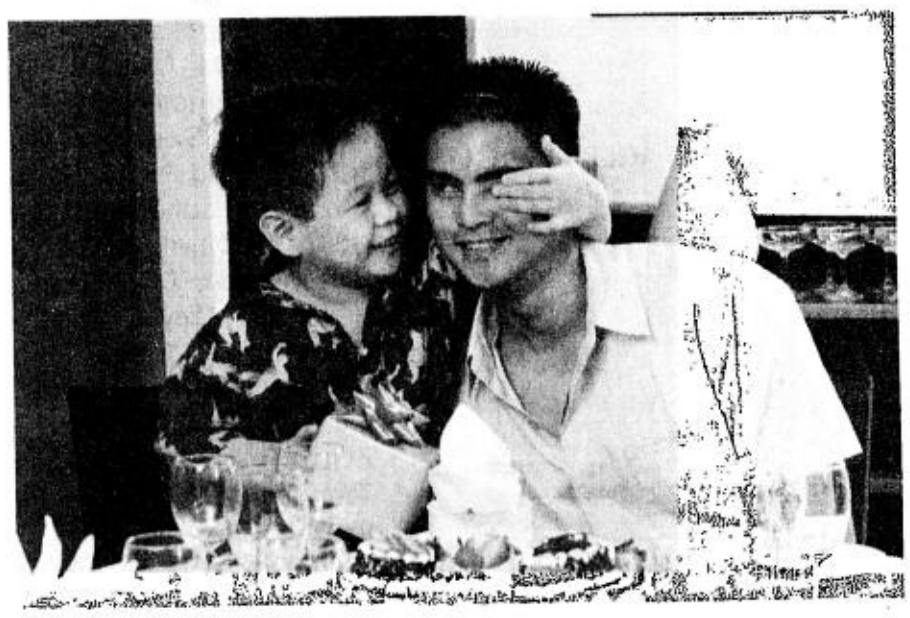
And on Fathers Day, it's Roast Beef Day! Celebrate this special occasion at Fiesta San Miguel and get the chance to test drive the latest model of BMW plus free Discover Scuba and snorkeling lessons courtesy of Eurika Dive to all Fathers and their kidsdining from June 18 to 19, among other freebies.

Fiesta San Miguel is located at the ground floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko. For inquiries and reservations, please call 867-3333

Trendy Dad's Day at Astoria Plaza

GIVE dad the break he deserves! He needs to unwind and just lay back and relax for a change. What better way than to check him in a 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom suite at the Astoria Plaza? Rates are P3,150++ for a 1-bedroom suite and P4,950++ for a 2-bedroom suite inclusive of buffet breakfast, in-room massage and foot spa, complimentary bottled mineral water, roundtrip shuttle service to nearby malls and free use of the gym and the pool. Astoria Plaza's Trendy Dad's Room Promo is valid from June 1 to 19. Lucky dads get to win exciting give-away prizes from Rustan's Clarins for Men and Blooming Fields' Body Nature.

Father's Day can be extra special for him. Treat him to a Texan-Mexican lunch buffet at the Café Astoria for only P585++ per person. Renowned Mexican dishes plus char-grilled barbecues and juicy skewers will surely make his day. Fathers dining with four other persons get to eat for free. Available at the Café Astoria on June 18 to 19.



THE PALM HOTELS BANQUET CORPORATE SALES BLITZ

The Palm Hotels banquet sales executives recently had a successful five days sales blitz where they visited top corporate companies, government offices, and schools in Pampanga, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna and CaMaNaVa (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) areas. The activity's main aim was to promote the various banquet packages and hotel exposure promos of Las Palmas, Palm Plaza and The Executive Plaza Hotels. Shown in the photo are (from left) Jim Jimenez - PPH account manager, Vanessa Amante - LPH banquet account manager, Lizette Narvas - EPH banquet account manager, Ching de Castro - banquet and catering sales manager, Maricel Modelo - PPH banquet account manager, Arabelle Garing del Rosario - EPH banquet account manager, Katrina Mendoza - LPH banquet account manager and Marlon Parrocho - PPH banquet account manager. The Palm Hotels main office is located at 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila with telephone numbers 521-1000 (Las Palmas Hotel), 522-1000 (Palm Plaza Hotel) and 523-1000 (The Executive Plaza Hotel).

A TASTE OF EUROPE'S BEST AT LAS PALMAS AND PALM PLAZA

You do not have to travel all the way down to Europe to experience two of the world's best. As the start of the rainy season, Sta. Fe Coffee Shop and Cocoy's Restaurant proudly brings you to Europe with their latest European promo that would surely appeal to your excellent taste for good food. A combination of Italian and French Cuisine, you would not want to miss their French onion soup (clear onion soup, white wine, French bread with melted mozzarella cheese on top); a choice between Braciolla Zuchinni (pan bread of loin of pork, zuchinni, ham, tomato, mozzarella cheese served with linguine pasta with classic tomato sauce) and Poached maya-maya fillet with joemland sauce (maya-maya fillet, bed of fresh green spinach, white wine, tomato, potato fondant and a dizzle of creamy natural wine sauce); and Tiramisu (Italy's traditional dessert). This special treat is affordably priced at P440 nett per person and is available for the whole month of June 2005 only. For reservations and other inquiries, call Sta. Fe Coffee Shop at 521-1000 for Las Palmas Hotel and Cocoy's Restaurant for Palm Plaza Hotel at 522-1000.

TV is big . . .

From page A2-3

vendor and a male starlet to personal or home makeovers, and they were really tickled pink with the results.

Yes, the makeover craze does open itself up to charges of encouraging superficiality, materialism, acquisitiveness and competitively keeping up with the Joneses or Cruzes.

But it compensates for those potentially negative effects with some truly inspiring transformations that motivate viewers to improve on themselves and brighten the context of their lives. So, may makeovers continue to make televiewers' day!

'The Human Mind'

EPISODE 3 of "The Human Mind" on Discovery Channel will be telecast June 21 at 8 p.m. The program investigates how our minds work to enable us to communicate with others.

Professor **Robert Winston** discovers how we recognize people, read their faces and bodies to understand what they're thinking, and then charm them. Viewers find out how to tell whether a smile is genuine, what happens when people "click" with one another, and how to determine when someone is lying.

The program also follows a young woman as she travels halfway across the world to confront her very own social obstacle course: Can she win over her New Zealand fiance's friends and family in the week before she gets married?

Replays are at noon on June 22, and 3 p.m. on June 25.

Feedback

FROM **Ernest O. Parpan** of Quezon City: "With all of the warnings that erring TV personalities and shows have been getting, it looks like things will improve on the TV screen. Thanks to writers like you, more viewers have become aware of their right to responsible programming, so TV personalities will be more careful in the future not to pollute the airwaves. As for those who are still behaving irresponsibly—watch out, your days could be numbered..."

'Right to Royalty by HP'

MTV Music Television and HP, the technology solutions provider, are staging the concert, "MTV and VH1 Present: Right to Royalty by HP," on July 19 at The Fort's Open Field, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The concert features the Apo Hiking Society, **Kuh Ledesma, Nina, Joey Ayala, Paolo Santos,** Side A, True Faith and **Jay-R,** and supports the campaign to curb music piracy.

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1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 10:55
PG-13

2 BATMAN BEGINS
10:50, 1:55, 5:00
8:05, 11:10
GP

3 BATMAN BEGINS
10:20, 1:25, 4:30
7:35, 10:40
GP

4 NASAAN KA MAN
10:35, 1:05, 3:35
6:05, 8:35, 11:05
R-13

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB: GP
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

2 MR.& MRS.SMITH
MTRCB: PG-13
11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

3 NASAAN KA MAN
MTRCB. R-13 P120.00
12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,10:00

4 MADAGASCAR
MTRCB. GP
11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB GP 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00
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CINEMA 3 MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
CINEMA 4 BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8:20, 11:00
CINEMA 5 BATMAN BEGINS GP 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
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the podium 633-8976
1 BATMAN BEGINS
11:05FS/11:30MF/02:15/05:05/07:45
10:05LFS/10:30LMF/12:50END
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:15FS/11:40MF/02:00/04:20/06:40
08:40LFS/09:05LMF/11:00END

megamall 633-1901
SIN CITY
11:30FS/12:00MF/02:25/04:50/07:17
09:15LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
2 BATMAN BEGINS
10:40FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:10/06:50
09:15LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

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WAVE 89.1

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 SIN CITY
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SHUTTER
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 BATMAN BEGINS
11 PREMONITION
12 MADAGASCAR

sm city fairview
1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 SHUTTER
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 MADAGASCAR
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 PREMONITION
11 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12 HOUSE OF WAX

sm north edsa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 NASAAN KA MAN
5 PREMONITION
6 SIN CITY
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city sta mesa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 SIN CITY
7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 ARE WE THERE YET?
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 MADAGASCAR

sm city southmall
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 ANG LAGUSAN
6 MADAGASCAR
7 STARWARS EPISODE 3
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 SIN CITY

sm city manila
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 MAN OF THE HOUSE
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 MADAGASCAR
6 BATMAN BEGINS
7 SIN CITY
8 PREMONITION
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 HOUSE OF WAX
11 SHUTTER
12 NASAAN KA MAN

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city bicutan
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
5 A LOT LIKE LOVE
6 NASAAN KA MAN

sm city bacoor
1 MADAGASCAR
2 PREMONITION
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 NASAAN KA MAN
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 NASAAN KA MAN
7 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
8 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city dasmariñas
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city baguio
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city marilao
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city lucena
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 NASAAN KA MAN

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 MADAGASCAR
5 SIN CITY
6 SHUTTER
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city iloilo
1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2 RESERVED
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MADAGASCAR
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 BATMAN BEGINS
7 RESERVED
8 SHUTTER

sm city davao
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 SHUTTER
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city batangas
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

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OPENS JUNE 22

Can they survive the wedding day?

Michael Vartan Jane Fonda Jennifer Lopez

MONSTER-in-LAW

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TAKE FIVE

JANE Fonda talks about her forthcoming comeback (after 15 years) movie, "Monster-in-Law," and about working with Jennifer Lopez.

How was your relationship with your own mother-in-laws?

I've had three and they were all great.

Getting back in front of camera must have been an emotional experience for you.

The most moving day was the first day that I was actually in front of a camera after 15 years, which was the costume and makeup test—which everybody does. Before the camera rolled for the first test, [Director] Robert Luketic just got everybody quiet and said, "Welcome back, Ms Fonda." I cried. I was so moved.

'Hollywood is not so friendly to older women'

Did you base [your character] Viola on anyone you know?

My favorite ex-husband, Ted Turner (laughs). I know that may sound really weird, but I had the privilege of spending 10 years with Ted Turner and, talk about over the top, outrageous ... I mean every day with Ted is like, "Oh my God, I can't believe he just said that or did that."

So when I got an opportunity to play Viola, it was like I had permission to be over the top because I knew what that could look like. I don't mean he's a monster. I'm crazy about the man. Absolutely adore him and we're close friends. It's like, just go all the way, hit for the fences.

JANE Fonda as Viola, the 'Monster'

What was it like working with Jennifer Lopez? Was it anything like you expected?

I worried that she'd be a diva, but at least I didn't see that at all. She was professional. She came on time. She knew her lines. She's very smart. We got along great. I didn't get to know her super well because she's so busy. The time that she was able to stay on the set, we talked between takes and enjoyed each other. It was fun.

What would your character say if she met Jane Fonda?

What an interesting question. I think Viola would be fascinated with my life and we'd have a lot to talk about.

What made you stop everything 15 years ago?

It had become agony. I was not happy inside as a woman and I was kind of in denial about it and sort of cut off from my emotions. I was living on willpower and it's very hard to be creative when you're living on willpower.

My last two or three movies were just agony and I said, "I don't want to be scared anymore." Then this character was offered to me of Viola Fields and I had never played anybody like her. I just went, "What a hoot! I'm so different from what I was 15 years ago. I'm not living in my head anymore. Let me see if this can be a joyful experience again." And it was.

What are your concerns about age and Hollywood and where you fit in?

I'm realistic. Hollywood is not so friendly to older women. I've had my career. I'm not looking to recreate a career. If I get an opportunity to play fun characters again from time to time that would be great. But I'm kind of relieved that I'm at a point where, "Hey, if you want me fine. If you don't, fine. I don't care." It's not who I am.

How has getting back into the spotlight been for you?

My life has been open to the public and judged for many, many decades and I have been under the radar for 15 years. I wrote my book ("My Life So Far") because I have come to some understanding in my life and what the themes are, and I knew that if I wrote it honestly that it would help people. I liked the fact that just about the time the book was coming out I could do this movie that was funny, which is not what people associate me with—even though I've done a lot of comedies.

Is there a movie you've seen that changed your life?

Many of my father's films had a huge impact on me growing up. "Grapes of Wrath," "Young Abe Lincoln," "12 Angry Men," "Oxbow Incident." I mean, they really formed a lot of my character and I think represented a lot of his character as well. Other than that, no. Books have caused epiphanies in my life, but I can't think of any films.

How has the industry changed since you were working more steadily?

I'll tell you one big difference that I hate. About 15 years ago and earlier, you could make a movie and so what if it didn't do great the first weekend? It would have a couple of weeks to get some life and get some legs and word of mouth, and young actors would start to get noticed. It would have time.

Nowadays if you don't make it that first weekend you're toast. That's so scary and it doesn't give young actors a chance to build a following. The other thing is, technologically, when I stopped making movies 15 years ago there weren't even cell phones. There were no digital cameras, there were no video villages, you know, none of this. Everything is a lot slicker now. We didn't have any of that technology stuff back then. Like angels flying. I write a whole scene about that in the book. Nobody ever flew without wires in my time.

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3 (DOLBY) NASAAN KA MAN R13
4 (DOLBY) MADAGASCAR GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS GP

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2 (SDDS) MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
4 GOLD (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) NASAAN KAMAN
6 GOLD (SDDS) MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
8 (DOLBY DIGITAL) A LOT LIKE LOVE
9 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MADAGASCAR
10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) NASAAN KAMAN

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1 (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH
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3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
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4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
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2 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
3 (DTS) MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY) UNLEASHED
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
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2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
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2 NASAAN KA MAN
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Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DTS EX) BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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2 BATMAN BEGINS
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4 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS

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4 (DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3

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2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
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2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BATMAN BEGINS
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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(Alabang) tel 850.4285
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2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
6 NASAAN KA MAN

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1 (DOLBY) SIN CITY
2 RESERVED

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 GRACIA
3 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
4 (DTS) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 (DTS) NASAAN KA MAN
4 GRACIA
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 MADAGASCAR
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 (DTS) NASAAN KA MAN
4 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 NASAAN KA MAN

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SILANG MGA RAMPADORA
2 NASAAN KA MAN

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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
BATMAN BEGINS GP 1:25,4:10,6:55,9:40
BATMAN BEGINS GP 12:30,3:15,6:00,8:45
MR. AND MRS. SMITH PG13 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20
NASAAN KA MAN R13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
MR. AND MRS. SMITH PG13 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:35,2:20,5:05,7:50,10:35

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
starmall EDSA SHAW Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Nasaan Ka Man
4 Batman Begins
5 Mr & Mrs Smith
P75 Lang Dolby Digital Pa Experience @ Starmall Edsa 4 & 5 Metropolis 5
METROPOLIS ALABANG star Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Kakalbang Karisma
2 Mr & Mrs Smith
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Batman Begins
6 Nasaan Ka Man
starmall EAT FINAS Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Sin City
2 Rental Reservation
JAYA @ Starmall Edsa June 18 Saturday
Diether Ocampo @ Metropolis June 19 Sunday

Araneta Center Leisure Guide..

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STAR WARS EPISODE 3 12:30 / 3 :30 / 6:30 / 9:30
A LOT LIKE LOVE 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
MADAGASCAR 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
BATMAN BEGINS 11:40 / 12:20 / 1:00 / 2:30 3:10 / 3:50 / 5:20 / 6:00 6:40 / 8:10 / 8:50 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MR & MRS SMITH 1:00 / 1:40 / 3:40 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 9:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
BATMAN BEGINS 1:40 / 4:30 / 7:20 / 10:10
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 NASAAN KA MAN 11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
2 BATMAN BEGINS 11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15
3 MR & MRS SMITH 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
4 SIN CITY 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10
5 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
June 18, Sat. 2005 WORLD SLASHER CUP INVITATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY
NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES June 25, Saturday
SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT June 24, Friday, 8pm
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN ATENEO - LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC July 2, Saturday, 1pm & 3pm
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SALES
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LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Network says Hero's brother ignored calls

From page A2-2

we filed a case against Tita Cristy [Fermin, not against ABS-CBN]."

The Angeles brothers last week filed libel charges against fellow ABS-CBN talent Cristy Fermin before the Pasig City Prosecutors' Office. The complaints stemmed from negative articles about the Angeles family that Fermin, also a movie journalist, had written in her columns.

No comment

"We don't want to comment on the libel cases. This does not involve the network," Endrinal said in a phone interview on Wednesday. "We issued a statement only because we want to clear the issues."

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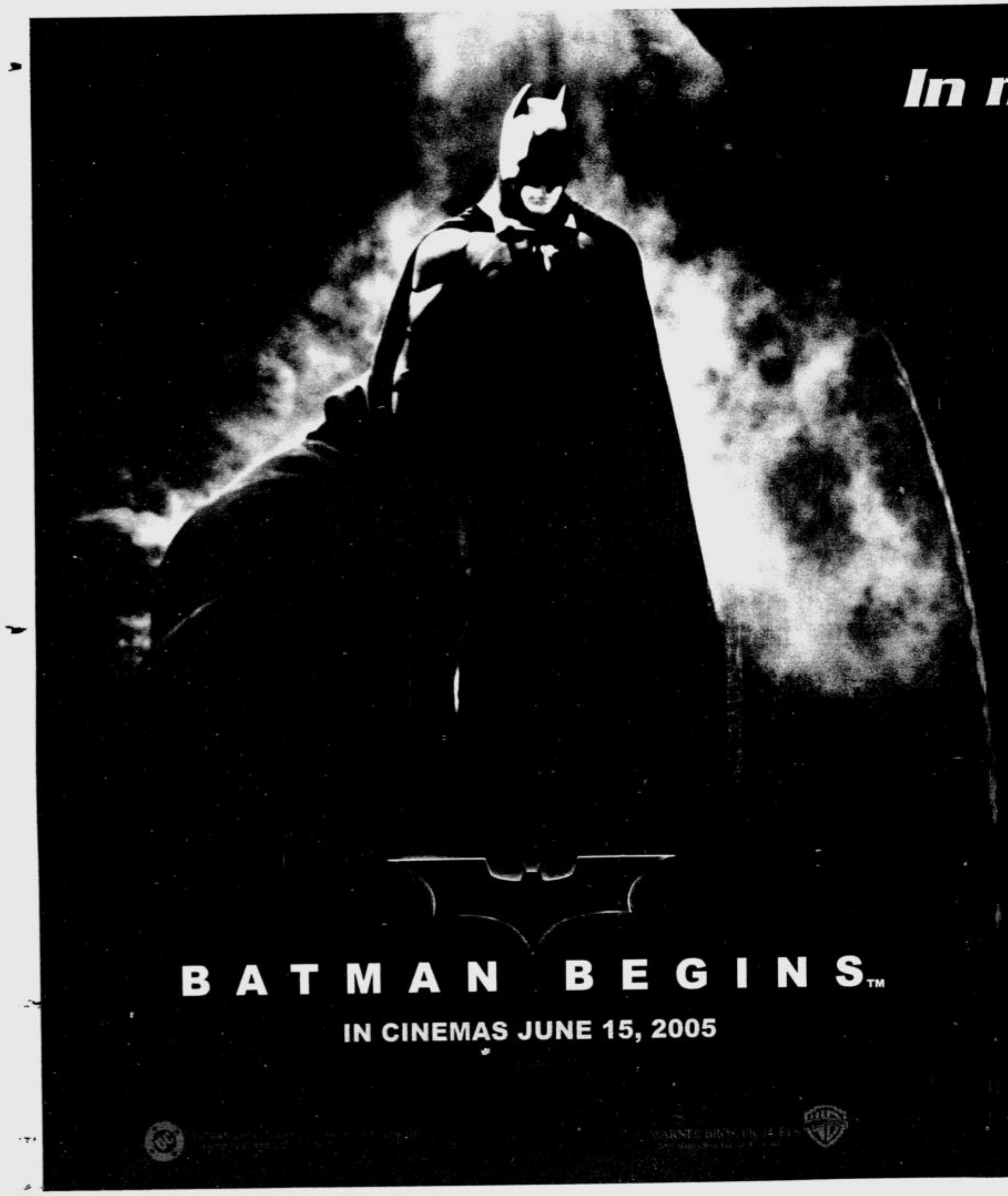

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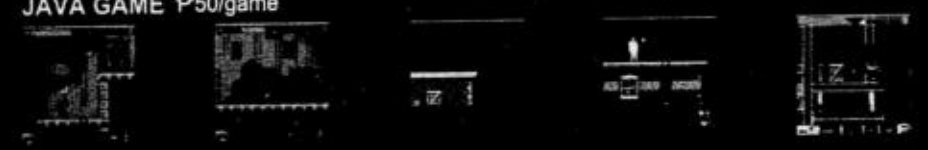

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Economy seen to grow by over 5% in Q2

By Michelle V. Remo

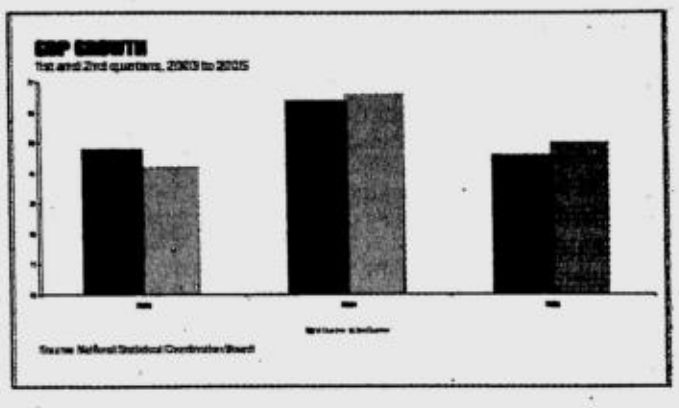
ECONOMIC growth in the second quarter will likely exceed 5 percent, higher than the first quarter's 4.6 percent, as farm production improves, the National Economic and Development Authority said.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the agriculture sector, which accounts for a fifth of the economy, was expected to post growth in the gross domestic product in the second quarter, reversing a contraction in the first three months of the year.

"We now see improvements in the agriculture sector, as rice and corn production was better (than the previous quarter)," Neri said in an interview with reporters after presenting a progress report on the Philippines' Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The second quarter projection boosted optimism that the economy can still hit the 5.3-6.3 percent growth target for the whole year. Although, Neri said the full-year figure might reach only the lower end of the projection.

In the first quarter, GDP growth slowed to 4.6 percent because of weather disruptions that caused lower farm output, the continued rise in oil prices and the deceleration of growth in the global arena.



High oil prices resulted in reduced spending by companies and consumers, dampening demand both here and the export markets.

The agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector posted a 0.1-percent contraction in the first quarter, a far cry from the 8.6-percent growth recorded in the same period in 2004. This was brought

ECONOMY/ B2

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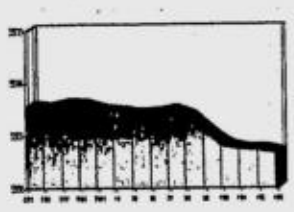

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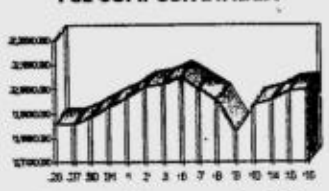
GOLD: $429.40-429.90
As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up 0.36%

SHARE prices yesterday closed 0.36 percent higher on follow-through support as market concerns over allegations of corruption and vote rigging against President Gloria Arroyo eased, dealers said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

However, profit-taking on stocks considered to have become expensive limited the market's rise, suggesting that the market has entered a consolidation phase following recent volatility.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 7.16 points to the day's high of 1,999.60 after a low of 1,988.02. Turnover was 578 million shares worth P1.22 billion.

The broader all-shares index gained 3.06 points to 1,209.69.

Despite the headline index gain, losers led gainers 32 to 30, with 48 stocks unchanged. AFP

5-mo BOP surplus hits $1.6B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY posted a balance of payment surplus of $1.64 billion in the first five months of the year, up sharply from $477 million a year ago, as foreign exchange build-up hit its strongest in three years.

For the month of May alone, the BOP surplus hit $751 million, much higher than $141 million a year ago, boosted by proceeds from the government's latest global bond offerings, a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report showed. The January-May BOP surplus was the highest posted by the Philippines since June 2002, when the year-to-date surplus stood at $1.74 billion.

"The surplus was due to capital and current account inflows, part of borrowings, portfolio investments and OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances," BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trading of goods and services, and cash transfers, particularly remittances from migrant workers.

5-MO/ B6

WHAT'S INSIDE

Saving the Barako way of life of Pinoy coffee farmers /B2

COCKTALES/B4

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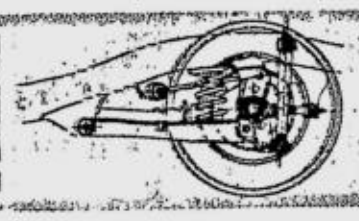

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IRR revision seen to ease impact of new VAT law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul T. Concepcion yesterday said the impact of the new value-added tax law on consumers would likely soften as the government was working on increasing the amount that companies could deduct from their tax payments.

Concepcion, who chairs the private-sector watchdog Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said in a briefing that the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue would soon amend the implementing rules of Republic Act No. 9337 or the new VAT law.

He explained that the amendment would allow the firms to avail of up to 90 percent input tax credit, which is what companies pay for importation and purchase of raw materials and services.

The input VAT offsets the output VAT imposed on the sale or lease of taxable goods, services or properties.

The old VAT law allowed firms to avail of full input VAT credit, while the new law placed a cap at 70 percent.

Concepcion said the move of the DOF and BIR was a result of two weeks of consultation with Malacañang officials, representatives of the House and Senate committees on ways and means, including House Speaker Jose de Venecia and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He added that the move was only a temporary solution since Congress would have to amend the law itself to increase the cap on input VAT credit.

"Many businesses that have a low profit margin of less than 30 percent may be forced to close shop as a result of the 70-percent cap," Concepcion said. "A compromise solution would allow them to deduct at 90 percent."

This would soften the impact on the C, D and E economic classes who would bear the brunt of the VAT on electricity, oil prices and basic commodities," he added.

In a previous briefing, Concepcion called for such an amendment to the new value-added tax law, saying this was the "last chance" for the economy to recover.

Ms Arroyo on May 24 signed the new law which aims to reduce the country's gaping budget deficit.

Tax officials were optimistic that the new VAT law would generate P28.75 billion in additional revenues this year, and P104.2 billion next year.

The Department of Finance had said that 70 percent of the proceeds from the new tax measure would be used to address the deficit, while 30 percent would go to budgetary support.

THE PHILIPPINES' Barako is enjoying a resurgence in production.

Saving the Barako way of life of Pinoy coffee farmers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES used to be the world's fourth biggest coffee producer during the 19th century. This accounted for the wealth of such coffee producing provinces as Cavite and Batangas.

But while fellow coffee growers Brazil, Colombia and Indonesia asserted their dominance in the global market thirsty for the world's most popular beverage, the Philippines was all but taken out of the coffee universe.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Widespread disease, the decision of many farmers to turn their backs on coffee to pursue more profitable crops, and the sale of coffee farms to give way to housing and commercial real estate projects were just some of the factors that pulled down production, accounting for less than 1 percent of the world's coffee supply.

Until 1986, the Philippines was still earning about $150 million a year in coffee exports. But by the late 1990s, this has gone down to about $500,000, and only 10 percent of the annual harvest is sent overseas, primarily to the Middle East.

Strong comeback

The Barako, the Philippines' indigenous Liberica bean known for its strong taste, powerful body, and a distinctly pungent odor, was pushed to the brink of extinction.

But Barako is making a strong comeback, due largely to the efforts of Figaro Foundation Corp., the corporate social responsibility arm of Figaro Coffee Corp., which is out to rescue the Barako and put the Philippines back on the coffee map.

Figaro is the country's biggest local coffee chain and depends largely on locally-grown coffee for its survival.

The coffee chain uses the Arabica beans produced in mountainous terrain such as those found in Benguet and Bukidnon, and of course, the Barako coffee from Cavite and Batangas.

"We initially went into it for the sustainability of our business," said Figaro CEO Pacita U. Juan. "We were worried because we were sourcing local coffee. There might come a time when there will be no more coffee to be sourced, unless we do something."

Thus, Figaro Foundation was set up in 2000, and the "Save the Barako" campaign to drum up marketing support for local coffee went underway.

One of its first projects was the launch of the Barako Blend in 2000 and the Barako Gold a year after. A part of the proceeds from the sale of the blends was plowed back to support the foundation's activities.

The more cups of coffee sold, the more reason for the farmers to keep the supply coming.

It was estimated that the Philippines has approximately 60,000-80,000 coffee families working on about 120,000 hectares of land planted to coffee, down from 200,000 hectares in 1989.

Prolific

To keep the numbers from falling further, Figaro staff went around provinces to encourage the farmers to keep on planting coffee, and to convince others not to be tempted by offers to move to other crops, or sell their coffee farms to developers, such as those putting up expansive golf courses.

Efforts centered on the Barako—named after the wild boar that is particularly fond of the bean—as it is the most popular local coffee variety and the only one that is uniquely Filipino.

Philippine Liberica is also very easy to grow. It survives long dry seasons and grows well in the lowlands. The tree is also very prolific and can produce as much as five kilos of beans a year.

In 2002, Figaro launched a massive Barako tree planting campaign to boost production. Figaro has planted 5,000 trees so far, and wants to bring the number up to 10,000 in five years.

Most of the trees are planted in Cavite, where Figaro has a close partnership with the municipal government of Amadeo and the Cavite State University-the National Research Center for Coffee.

Efforts to boost Barako production are literally bearing fruit.

While the national coffee production is about half-a-ton per hectare, or two kilograms of green beans per tree per harvest, Cavite's average production was placed at three tons a hectare, boosting production to 12 kilograms a tree, equivalent to 1,200 cups of brewed coffee from a single tree each harvest.

Pilot farm

This is due to new farming technology and good farming practices that are tested in a Barako Pilot Farm spanning 1.7 hectares.

The farm is planted solely to Barako, and the success of production here has served as an inspiration for coffee farmers and members of the coffee industry.

Helping finance Figaro Foundation's projects are the sales of Figaro's "Save the Barako" branch at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the Bean Aid Coffee Cart on the fourth floor of the GMA Network Centre, which also educates people on the current situation of the coffee industry, especially the

SAVING/ B5

FIGARO Coffee Corp.'s Bean Aid carts not only serve good coffee, they also raise funds to support the "Save the Barako" campaign.

Petron clears Core Maritime

PETRON Corp. has withdrawn its complaint against Core Maritime Corp.

In February, Petron accused four shipping firms owned by the Herma Group of Companies of grand theft from 1999 to 2004.

The four shipping firms were Herma Shipping Transport Corp., Flagship Petroleum Carrier, Inc., Herma Transport Solutions, Inc. and Core Maritime Corp.

Core Maritime, however, wrote Petron Corp., saying that its inclusion in the group of vessels owned by Herma was erroneous. Also, it says it does not own any of the ten vessels alleged to have pilfered Petron's cargo.

In a Notice of Dismissal filed last March before a Manila trial court, Petron cleared Core Maritime Corp. of any involvement in the pilferage case. The court promptly approved the dismissal of the case against Core Maritime.

Economy seen . . .

From page B1

about by bad weather conditions.

The 4.6-percent GDP growth in the first quarter was much lower than the 6.4 percent recorded in the same period in 2004.

Government efforts to address its fiscal concerns also contributed to the lower GDP growth in the first quarter, according to a report. Government consumption recorded a 0.9-percent drop during the period, after posting a 4.1-percent growth in the first quarter of 2004.

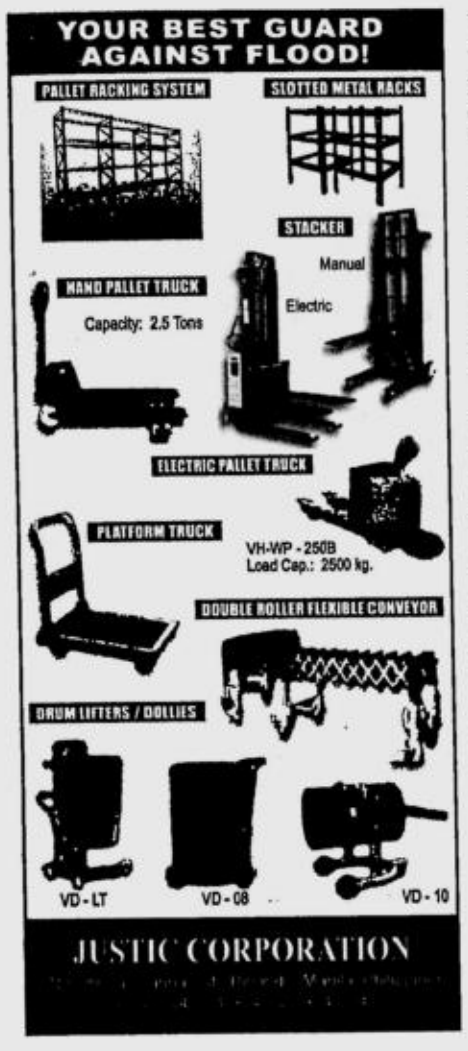
But Neri, who is also the director general of the Neda, said the adverse economic impact of the government's tight spending policy was temporary. He said fiscal reforms implemented to raise additional revenues, such as the imposition of higher taxes and stricter tax collection, would help push the economy forward.

"It's pain in the short run, but gain in the long run," Neri had said.

Neri earlier said GDP growth in the second half of the year would likely hit at least 5.5 percent, to compensate for the low first quarter growth.

In the meantime, the Neda chief said the prevailing political concerns were not expected to significantly affect the country's economic performance.

He said political wrangling had always been part of Philippine history, and that the economy had somehow developed resilience from the adverse effects of politics.



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Safeguards in Japan-RP deal sought

THE FAIR Trade Alliance , a multi-sectoral economic organization, yesterday deplored the lack of transparency in the way the executive branch of the government was crafting the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

In fact, FTA added, "the executive branch is foisting the JPEPA on the nation as if it were a done thing or a *fait accompli*."

FTA said the tariff reduction schedule was one of the two main features of a proposed Japan-Philippine agreement. It seeks the reduction to zero of the tariffs on Philippine and Japanese goods within 10 years, beginning in 2006.

FTA expressed fears that the proposed deal did not provide safeguards to the country's industrial goods, which include regulation and competition issues.

In a statement, the FTA said that the Philippines seemed to be offering a comprehensive list of goods to be liberalized without any clear reciprocal counter-offer from Japan. "If this is so, the deal will become a one sided liberalization agreement, with the liberalization taking place mainly on the Philippine side."

Without the safeguard or safety net clause in the agreement, Philippine industries will have no remedies against import surges and dumping.

The FTA said the proposed deal included the so-called 'Singapore issues' (government procurement, trade facilitation, investment and competition policies), which were thrown out in the failed WTO Cancun Ministerial in 2003 because these issues encroached on the independent capacity of developing countries to determine their development priorities.

The group said the impact on local appliance, cement, resin and other industrial producers would likely be negative.

"It is unclear how the agricultural sector will gain from JPEPA. There is also a reportedly long list of excluded Japanese products which our trade negotiators are reluctant to share," the group said.

It said it was clear that Japan had been aggressively promoting the enhanced bilateral 'economic partnership agreements' (EPAs) with the Philippines and other Asean/Asian countries to counter the efforts of China to conclude an 'early harvest' (preparatory to full free trade) agreement with these countries and the bilateral free trade initiatives being made by the United States.

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Ratings upgrade seen this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will likely merit a sovereign credit rating upgrade this year on sustained progress from fiscal consolidation, a Standard Chartered Bank economist said.

However, the banks said the ensuing increases in taxes and utility costs could initially impinge on economic growth, Visiting SCB regional economist Mike Moran said in a briefing on Wednesday that the country was starting to reap the fruits of fiscal consolidation, with a stronger peso and narrower bond spreads that made debt servicing much easier.

The Hong Kong-based economist said the outlook of credit rating agencies on the country was starting to improve and that a continued reform could lead to an upgrade by the end of the year.

"I have to admit that when the government's projection that it could balance its budget by 2008 first came out last year, I thought it was very optimistic. But given what we've seen in the last six months, it has become a realistic target," Moran said.

Overall, Moran said he was "cautiously optimistic" on the Philippines, despite political jitters arising from accusations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had rigged the last presidential elections and that her husband, eldest son and brother-in-law were benefiting from *jueteng*, an illegal numbers game.

"From the fundamental side, there's a lot of good news coming out of the Philippines but the political risk premium may undermine a lot of the confidence that has been built up," Moran said.

"Clearly, investors are looking at the political turbulence that has emerged recently as a reason for them to wait and see how the environment develops before committing new investments," he said.

This year, SCB expects the Philippines to post a gross domestic product growth of 4.7 percent, which is seen to slow down to 4.2 percent in 2006. It expects the GDP to grow by 4.5 percent in 2007.

The GDP outlook for the Philippines over the next two years is the lowest among the four biggest economies of Southeast Asia. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are seen to expand by 5.5 percent, 5 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively in 2006 and by 5.7 percent, 6 percent and 6.5 percent in 2007.

"Over the next two to three years, with this fiscal consolidation program, we will necessarily see continued pressure on the consumption side of the economy, whether it's an increase in the VAT (value added tax) or whether it's the electricity tariff that's being increased this year and with possibly more increases going forward," Moran said.

Boardroom brawl in ETPI worries envoy

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE AUSTRALIAN government has raised concern over the security of investors' business interest in the country, following the alleged ouster of an Australian firm's representatives from the board of Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

In a May 24 letter to Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos, Australian Ambassador to Manila Tony Hely said the boardroom maneuvering by government-appointed directors at ETPI "may have damaged an Australian investment."

The Presidential Commission on Good Government has two seats in the ETPI board since the telecommunications carrier and service provider used to be controlled by an associate of late President Marcos.

Hely related that Australian Gigahertz Network International Pty. Ltd. had complained before the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that the actions of the PCGG-appointed ETPI directors had led to the removal of Roger Buckeridge as chair and Nenita Lim-Cruz as president and chief executive of the telco.

Buckeridge and Cruz represent AGNI's local unit, which has invested A$40 million in ETPI over the last five years, making it the largest shareholder with a 40-percent stake.

CebuPac expects ₱400M in profit

By Clarissa S. Batino

CEBU Air Pacific is seen to double its profit to P400 million this year from about P200 million in 2004 on improved efficiency.

The airline is expecting an improvement in its performance with the addition of a brand-new Airbus 320 to its fleet. It will add another Airbus 319 soon.

Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said that once the $500-million refleeting was completed in 2007, the company would cut down cost by 30 percent per passenger.

With the new planes, he said the company would be consuming 45 percent less fuel.

To be more competitive, especially with the influx of low-cost carriers now flying to the Philippines, the airline chief said Cebu Pacific would further invest in airline distribution system.

Gokongwei said the company would pass on a substantial portion of the savings efficiency to its customers.

"We are looking at a profit of P300 million to P400 million this year. We are in a better position to remain profitable with the arrival of the new planes," said the company president.

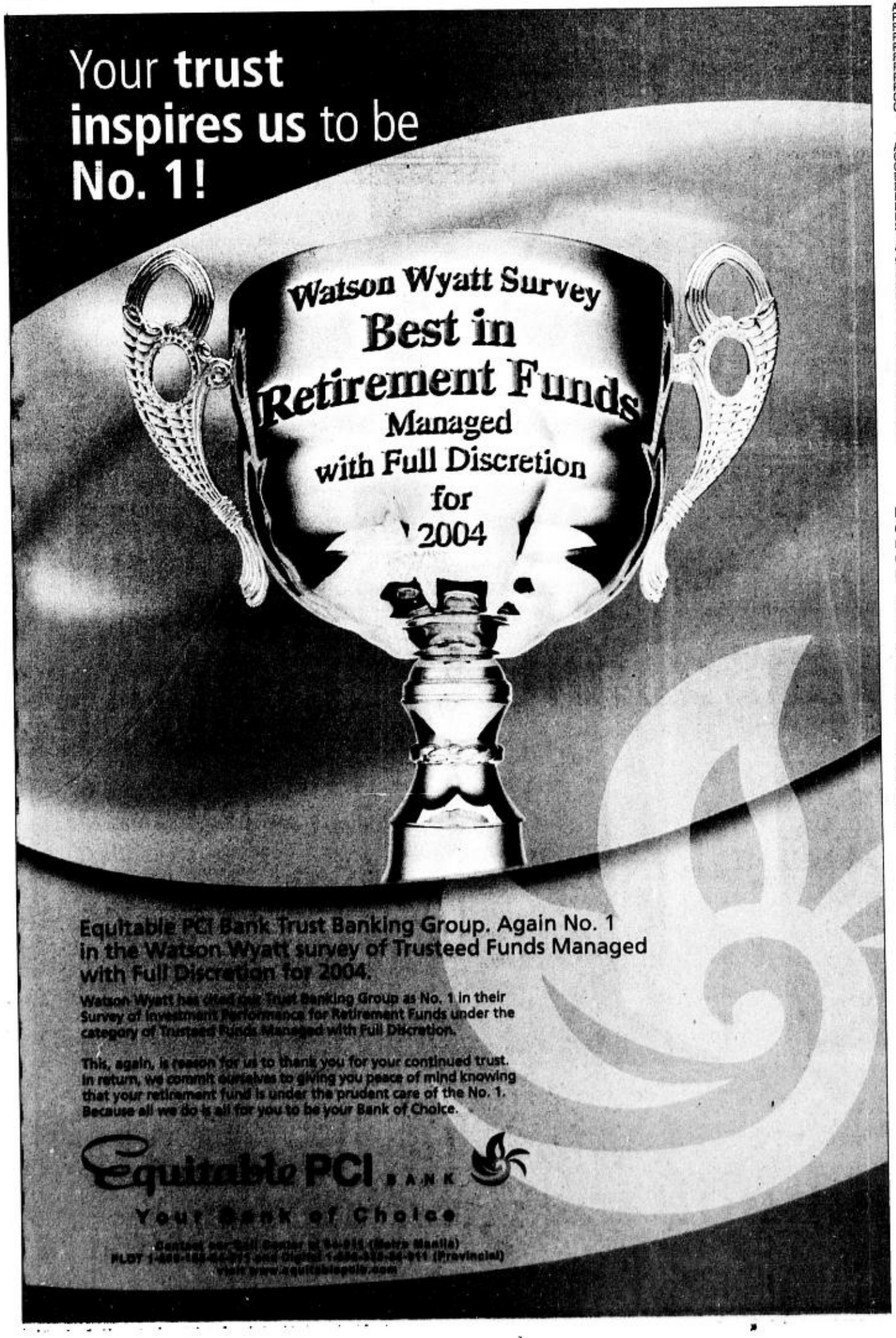
Cebu Pacific's sales dropped from the second half of 2004 to the first quarter this year, as the airline's old fleet drove passengers away.

The country's second-largest carrier suffered a net loss of P54 million in the first quarter. Gokongwei said "April and May were good months."

With its refleeting program, Gokongwei said Cebu Pacific would have the youngest and more efficient fleet in the region by early 2007.

In line with the fleet upgrade, Cebu Pacific has tied up with Singapore Airlines for aircraft maintenance.

The Gokongwei carrier also teamed up with General Electric for engine support.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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 16, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	32.5	31.5	32	420,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	52	50.5	52	4,569,100
China Banking Corp.	780	780	780	780	50
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	580,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51.5	50.5	50.5	395,900
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	159,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	30.5	31	362,800
Philippine National Bank	41	42.5	40	42	573,900
Security Bank Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	247,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	14,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2570	2610	2570	2610	1,860
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	696,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1740	1750	1740	1750	760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	215,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	7,156,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	835	820	820	113,150
Ipeople Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	11,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	1,086,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1605	1615	1595	1605	117,000
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	310,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	10,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16	15.5	15.5	22,900
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	403,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	13,766,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.35	3.2	3.35	5,133,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	1.92	1.98	40,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	104,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Abolitz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8.1	7.8	7.8	1,885,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.57	0.66	0.57	0.63	14,310,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	2,954,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	564,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	80,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59.5	59	59.5	44,400
San Miguel Corp. B	91	91.5	91	91.5	109,300
Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	19,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	352.5	352.5	347.5	352.5	93,530
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	190,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.031	4,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	97,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	240,000
Atlcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	15,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.14	1.14	27,287,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	870,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	3,240,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.75	5,534,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.2	1,490,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49	49	49	49	1,158,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	1,000,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	23,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.9	4.05	3.9	4	1,835,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	2,682,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	59,880,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	150,000
SM Investments Corp.	255	255	252.5	255	271,040
South China Resources Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	5,570,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	3,010,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.12	5,280,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.81	0.77	0.78	480,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	1,528,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	30,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.25	11.5	11	11.25	1,698,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	490,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	7,111,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,080,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	3,210,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.52	1.52	4,107,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.21	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.6	33,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.9	8	5,314,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	79,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.6	1,050,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	8,020,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	12,540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	11,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	94,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	73,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	1,050,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	32	32	31	31	304,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.004	0.0032	0.0034	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	55,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.85	2.65	2.85	47,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	3,720,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000

DISCLOSURES

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. disclosed that the Securities and Exchange Commission had approved the registration of P5-billion fixed-rate peso-denominated bonds of the company's subsidiary, First Gen Corp., due July 30, 2010. The bonds were priced at 11.55 percent per annum.

***

PETROENERGY Resources Corp. announced that director Helen Dee had bought 5,000 shares on June 10 through RCBC securities.

***

THE SEC suspended yesterday the trading of **Abacus Consolidated Resources & Holdings Inc.**'s shares, because the company had not disclosed the complete terms and conditions regarding its acquisition of the 97-percent equity interest of Philippine Regional Investment Development Corp.

***

C & P Homes Inc. accepted the resignations of Michael Regino as chair and president of the board of directors, Joan Calabig as board member and Elizabeth Kalaw as chief financial officer. Elected were Maribeth Tolentino as chair and president of the corporation, Estrellita Tan as chief financial officer and Romeo Albaniel as independent director. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 16, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.825491167	1.000000	55.3350
Japan	Yen	0.007558	0.009156	0.5066
United Kingdom	Pound	1.504045	1.822000	100.8204
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106199	0.128650	7.1188
Switzerland	Franc	0.649482	0.786782	43.5366
Canada	Dollar	0.667333	0.808407	44.7332
Singapore	Dollar	0.494099	0.598552	33.1209
Australia	Dollar	0.63514	0.769408	42.5752
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.189748	2.652661	146.7850
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220131	0.266667	14.7560
Brunei	Dollar	0.492625	0.596766	33.0220
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020178	0.024444	1.3526
UAE	Dirham	0.224764	0.272279	15.0666
Euro	Euro	1	1.211400	67.0328
ArgentinaPeso	0.287127	0.347826	19.2470	
Brazil	REAL	0.338067	0.409534	22.6616
Denmark	Kroner	0.134335	0.162734	9.0049
India	Rupee	0.018951	0.022957	1.2703
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217263	0.263193	14.5638
Mexico	New Peso	0.076431	0.092588	5.1234
New Zealand	Dollar	0.588166	0.712504	39.4264
Norway	Kroner	0.126804	0.153610	8.5000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013867	0.016798	0.9295
South Africa	Rand	0.122159	0.147984	8.1887
Korea	Won	0.000815	0.000987	0.0546
Sweden	Kroner	0.107827	0.130622	7.2280
Syria	Pound	0.015902	0.019264	1.0660
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026306	0.031867	1.7634
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000385	0.000466	0.0258

Tales of troubled men

THE GAMBLING problems of Vicente "Vince" Carlos have finally caught up with him.

According to the grapevine, the Ramos-era Tourism secretary was detained upon his arrival at the San Francisco International Airport on Monday (Tuesday in Manila), and was being held in a San Mateo county facility in connection with his casino debts in Las Vegas.

Carlos, a lawyer and a former district governor of Rotary Philippines, was on his way to Chicago with his wife Tina to attend an international Rotary convention to be held at the Windy City this weekend.

With the Chicago trip aborted, Tina had been forced to stay in the Bay Area, while the family tries to sort out the latest mess that her husband has found himself in.

According to the family grapevine, Carlos's father had already bailed him out of a rumored $1 million "fee" he had obtained during the Erap years from Macau gambling tycoon, Stanley Ho.

Likewise, Carlos's classmates in Ateneo have often been tapped to pitch in, whenever Carlos was short of funds, especially after the family sold its shareholdings in Security Bank and the Norton & Harrison construction trading business.

Meanwhile, another famous Filipino inmate in the United States, former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, is due to be released in late November, after having served a two-year term for electoral fraud and tax evasion.

Jimenez, also known as Inmate Number 69335-004, is currently detained at the Allenwood Federal Correctional Institution, a minimum security facility in White Deer, Pennsylvania.

According to the government grapevine, Jimenez will be deported to Manila by the federal authorities upon his release, having lost his green card status and the right to live in the United States.

And, finally, former National Archives chief Ricardo Manapat left the country last weekend, after having quietly survived all the FPJ-related court cases heaped upon him by the opposition for his having claimed that Fernando Poe Jr. was not a natural-born Filipino and, therefore, ineligible for the presidency.

According to the grapevine, Manapat was even briefly held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last Saturday as his name was still included in the outdated hold-departure list.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A frantic phone call to Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez finally cleared Manapat's departure.

Fuego in Punta

PUNTA Fuego residents led by Erap golf teacher Joey Stevens have sued the Batangas government for raising the zonal valuation in the ritzy resort, from P2,000 to as much as P23,000 a square meter.

According to the grapevine, Batangas Governor Armando Sanchez has in turn been pointing to his vice governor, Ricky Recto, as having led the revenue-raising initiative as presiding officer of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Sanchez, who does not need another political headache, has been meeting quietly with the Punta Fuego representatives, and promising, by way of a compromise, a downward adjustment of the rates.

Money-go-round

- THE LORENZOS are in the thick of negotiations to acquire the Japanese fast-food chain Teriyaki Boy, which they plan to fold into their publicly listed Pancake House.
- THE PROFITABLE Cebu Pacific is saving another 35 percent in fuel costs with the deployment of new Airbus 320 planes to replace its similar-sized Boeings.
- LISA Gokongwei is launching her 22nd magazine, the Philippine edition of Marie-Claire, by the last quarter, in time for the holiday advertising overload.

Heard through the grapevine

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has written a number of dealers of luxury cars and SUVs to ask for their respective lists of buyers.

Apparently, the BIR wants to match the buyers' lists with the reported sales prices and vehicle registration data with the Land Transportation Office.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

DTI, food firms seek to boost exports of biscuits, snacks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday said it was working closely with key players of the local food sector in drawing up a road map to boost the exports of biscuits and confectionery products.

According to the DTI, its Foreign Trade Service Corps recently met with the local food sector to gather inputs on the road map being prepared, including the export markets they were targeting.

Data showed that confectionery and honey exports reached $24.27 million in 2004, or an increase of 12.5 percent from the 2003 level.

Also, exports of cereal and flour preparations-which include biscuits-were estimated to have reached $43 million in 2004, up 3.62 percent from last year.

The players in the local biscuits sub-sector include Monde Nissin, Universal Robina Corp., Branded Food and Ingredients Enterprises, Dealo, Ritz, Rebisco Group, Laura's, ECCO, First Choice Food Group, FMC and Monde MY San Corp.

Other food companies that participated in the dialogue included: Castillejos, Florence Foods Corp. Rebisco, RFM Corp. Florence, Pinakamasarap, KLT Fruits, Cebu Legacy, Leslie Corps, Pacific Isles and Caramba.

DTI commercial attachés and trade service officers previously assigned to the USA, Malaysia, Germany, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong joined the dialogue with industry players to discuss the potentials of Philippine food in global markets.

According to the commercial attachés, promotional marketing events were undertaken for the biscuits and confectionery sector in the past, such as food sampling for 7 Eleven in Thailand; the buying missions of Japan's Momose Co. and Dubai's Al-Deek Foodstuff Inc.

The events were aimed at strengthening the market's awareness and acceptance of Philippine food products.

As a result, the biscuits sub-sector was able to penetrate key distribution channels in Korea, such as Namdaemun market and train stations, as well as 100 Yen Shops and many other stores in Japan.

Saving the Barako . . .

From page B2

Barako.

"We are happy because, years later, we have helped raise the price of Barako in the market, encouraging farmers to grow it again," Juan said. "There is more awareness that the Philippines produces good coffee."

That's one more reason to grab that cup of Figaro coffee.

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PLDT told to cut access charge to Globe

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has ordered Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to cut its access charges to competitors, including Globe Telecom Inc., so that other subscribers could also enjoy the P10 a call promo.

Otherwise, the Commission warned that it would order the four-month-old promo stopped.

The NTC said in its nine-page June 15 order that PLDT's P10 a call rate was much lower than the current access charge of P4 a minute for mobile-to-mobile and landline-to-mobile calls, and P3 for mobile-to-landline calls charged to other companies.

PLDT, however, denied having any "special arrangement" with the carriers included in its promo.

But the NTC said it wasn't buying PLDT's line and that whatever special access rate it was offering to carriers included in the P10 a call rate should be given to all others, including Globe, for the duration of the promo.

The Commission ordered Globe, and its subsidiary Innove Communications Inc., "to extend the same preferential treatment featured in their own promo offerings when so requested by other carriers."

Innove, which operates Globe's fixed-line and data business as well as the Touch Mobile brand, last month asked the NTC to stop PLDT's P10 offering or compel PLDT to extend the same rates to Globe and Innove subscribers.

PLDT had just extended its P10 a call within the network to July 11. Calls from PLDT to subscribers of Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. are charged P15 each, regardless of the length of the conversation.

Globe said PLDT's P10 or even P15 call rate was not just discriminatory, but predatory.

The preferential rate is offered to all subscribers of PLDT, its affiliates Clark Telecom, Subic Telecom, Maranaw Telecom, and participating members of Paptelco (Private Telephone Companies of the Phils.)

"Indeed, there is no basis for PLDT's failure to accord Globe and Innove the same preferential access charge treatment it had given to the other carriers under the said promo," the NTC said in its order.

The NTC pointed out that existing laws and even its own circulars strictly required that rates and charges between telecom companies should be "non-discriminatory."

"The pricing structure of the promo in question is definitely lower than the current access charge regime," said the NTC in its order.

RETAILERS URGED TO PUT PRICE TAGS ON PRODUCTS
Trade Undersecretary Zenaida C. Maglaya (left) checks out the price tags of products at the Sangandaan Market in Caloocan. On her visit to the market, Maglaya found out that majority of the stall owners have complied with the price tag provisions of RA 7394, or the Consumer Act. Undersecretary Maglaya said price tags would enable consumers to compare goods according to quality and price, and help them choose the products that suit their budget and preference. Also, violators run the risk of closure, she added.

Smart in no rush to hold maiden offering

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SINGAPORE—SMART Communications Philippines Inc., the mobile phone provider of telco giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is in no rush to offer its shares to the public, according to Napoleon Nazareno, Smart president and chief executive officer.

Also, Smart added a feather on its cap Tuesday night when it was named Best Mobile Operator of 2005 at the recently concluded Asian MobileNews Awards at the Tower Club in Singapore.

Nazareno on Tuesday said that in line with PLDT's convergence strategy—a plan that consolidates different forms and channels of communication offered by the PLDT Group—it is important that Smart remains a wholly-owned subsidiary of PLDT.

PLDT is actively pursuing a convergence strategy through its three principal business groups—fixed line, wireless and internet through ePLDT.

He also said that there is a pending bill in Congress that proposes automatic listing for a company, of which 60 to 70 percent of it is owned by its listed parent firm.

Once the bill is approved, Smart does not need to get listed on the stock exchange.

PLDT officials separately said there is no current plan to pursue an initial public offering for Smart.

Officials had said PLDT is busy cutting down its debts, which requires Smart to remit a substantial portion of its income to PLDT as dividends.

Gasoline prices seen to be hardest hit by new tax law

By Abigail L. Ho

FUEL pump prices will definitely rise upon the imposition on July 1 of the 10-percent value-added tax. But gasoline prices will be the hardest hit as excise taxes will still be slapped on the product, unlike the socially sensitive diesel.

Under the expanded VAT law, the P1.63-a-liter excise tax for diesel will be scrapped when the law takes effect. Gasoline, however, will still be slapped an excise tax of P4.35 a liter, 45 centavos lower than the current level.

In a briefing yesterday, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said oil firms still had an over-recovery of P1 a liter for gasoline. This, however, was offset by diesel under-recoveries of the same amount.

This meant that, upon the imposition of the VAT next month, he said oil firms would no longer have any under-recoveries, making pump price adjustments reliant on factors such as the new tax and further movements of oil prices in the world market.

With the imposition of the 10-percent VAT, he said gasoline prices would likely go up due to the presence of the excise tax.

The removal of the excise tax on diesel would ease the impact of the VAT on pump prices, he said.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya had earlier said that the Department of Energy was looking at other measures that the government could do to ease the impact of the VAT on pump prices.

"Getting prices lower is one of the targets of the DOE," he said. "We're looking at other taxes that can be reduced."

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla revealed that the government was considering bringing down the tariff level on crude and refined petroleum product imports from 5 percent to 3 percent, or back to the level before Malacañang issued an order boosting it to the current 5-percent level.

"We're looking at mitigating measures within the [e-VAT] law, but we're also looking at a reduction in tariff duties," Lotilla said.

Since the beginning of the year, oil firms have jacked up gasoline prices nine times, by a total of P4.85 a liter, and diesel fuel 10 times, by a total of P5.05 a liter.

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KBP pulls out of AdBoard

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas has pulled out of the Advertising Board of the Philippines following policy disagreements on how to treat commercial overloading among broadcast stations.

The group of broadcasters admitted that the industry's inaction of excessive commercial loading has been threatening the KBP's unity and existence.

The KBP, an association of radio and television networks, said it withdrew membership from the AdBoard due to irreconcilable differences on how to address the issue of excessive commercials.

The KBP and the AdBoard are self-policing bodies. The AdBoard was put up by media and advertising groups to screen commercials before these were aired.

Two years ago, the KBP lost one of its biggest members, GMA Network Inc., over a similar dispute on advertising loading.

GMA withdrew from the KBP in September 2003 due to policy differences, the biggest of which was the organization's policy to limit commercial loading to no more than 18 minutes for every hour of programming.

Failing to resolve the loading issue, GMA left the KBP and since then had become the country's most profitable broadcast network.

The KBP, meanwhile tried to use its influence with the AdBoard to make sure that networks stay within the commercial airing ceiling.

"The KBP has asked the AdBoard to take a more concrete action to ensure that the advertisements placed in broadcast stations, whether they are KBP members or not, do not exceed the limit agreed on and recognized by members of the AdBoard," said the KBP in a statement.

The broadcast organization said that without the AdBoard's support, the KBP's "own regulatory system would be seriously compromised because continued membership in the AdBoard would mean condoning violations of accepted industry standards," it added.

The AdBoard, in a statement said it viewed the KBP's withdrawal with apprehension.

"The withdrawal effectively releases KBP members from the responsibility to adhere to AdBoard guidelines ... breaking an important link in the system of self regulation in the advertising industry," said AdBoard chair Raul Alvarez in a statement.

The AdBoard said the KBP's resignation would impede industry efforts "to promote a higher sense of social responsibility among advertising practitioners."

To the KBP, the issue is simple. The viewers and the public must be protected from excessive commercial loading, it said.

"This does not mean we are against broadcast stations making money," the KBP said. "Profit is necessary to deliver quality service, but it should also be balanced by a regard for the wellbeing of the viewers and listeners."

GMA Network officials said it had been self-policing since it left the KBP.

Last year, GMA surpassed the competitor's advertising load by about 10,000 minutes.

In 2003, the network chalked up 3,200 minutes more in advertising against its chief rival ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

GMA officials said the 18-minute ceiling had no reasonable basis. *Clarissa S. Batino*

5-mo BOP surplus hits $1.6B

From page B1

Any transaction that involves payment of foreign exchange by a Philippine resident, including importation, is a deficit item in the BOP. Transactions that involve the receipt of foreign exchanges, such as exporting and inward remittances, are surplus items.

As early as April, the BSP has already exceeded its $852-million BOP surplus target for the full year.

Last month, the government raised $750 million through the sale of additional 2015 and 2030 international bonds to help the government address its budget gap.

Lead managers Deutsche Bank AG, HSBC and JPMorgan Chase & Co. sold $250 million of the 10-year paper at a price of 101.375 and $500 million in 25-year bonds at a price of 97.875. These carried yields of 8.661 percent and 9.726 percent, respectively.

Aside from the foreign loan proceeds, the country benefited from net inflows of portfolio investments or "hot money," some foreign direct investments as well as OFW remittances.

From January to April, dollars sent home by overseas Filipino workers through banks rose by 17.2 percent to $3.1 billion from a year ago.

Foreign portfolio investments, which fueled the peso's appreciation in the past few months, dwindled after peaking in March.

The net inflow of hot money for the month of May reached $98.7 million, the lowest monthly inflow so far this year. The inflows stood at $543.5 million in January, $334.7 million in February, $562.1 million in March and $279.8 million in April.

In the meantime, the country's gross international reserves breached the $17-billion mark as of end-May to hit its strongest foreign exchange build-up in three years. The five-month GIR level stood at $17.34 billion, 3.7 percent higher than the $16.72 billion at end-April.

Oil prices climb as US supply shrinks

WASHINGTON—Oil prices rose Wednesday after energy traders shrugged off Opec's decision to boost its output target and a government report showed that domestic supplies shrank last week amid higher gasoline demand.

"Right now, the bullish news gets all the glory," said John Kilduff, an oil analyst at Fimat USA in New York.

The world has plenty of crude oil and motor fuel to meet daily demand, Kilduff said, but what it lacks is a large enough supply cushion to temper fears about possible supply disruptions.

Light sweet crude for July delivery rose 57 cents to settle at $55.57 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, putting oil futures roughly 50 percent higher than a year ago. Prices climbed as high as $56.75 earlier in the day.

In London, Brent crude futures rose 71 cents to settle at $54.45 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Wednesday's rally was sparked by the Energy Department's weekly supply snapshot, which showed US inventories of crude oil fell by 1.8 million barrels last week to 329 million barrels, leaving supplies almost 9 percent above year ago levels.

What also stood out in the report, Kilduff said, was that gasoline demand over the past four weeks has averaged almost 9.5 million barrels a day, roughly 3 percent above year ago levels in spite of retail gasoline prices averaging $2.13 per gallon nationwide. July gasoline futures jumped 2.16 cents to $1.5625 per gallon on Nymex.

The Energy Department report said gasoline inventories slipped by 900,000 barrels to 215.7 million barrels, or 5 percent higher than a year ago.

The supply of distillate fuel, which includes diesel and heating oil, grew by 2.5 million barrels to 110.2 million barrels, or 1 percent above year ago levels, the agency said.

Also on Wednesday, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to increase its official production quota from 27.5 million barrels a day to 28 million barrels per day, and members said they would consider another 500,000 barrel per day increase if prices remained high.

Analysts said the market was unimpressed because Opec's decision would have little impact on actual output.

The 10 Opec members bound by the output quota are already pumping some 28 million barrels a day.

Including Iraq, which is not bound by the quota, Opec's production was 29.3 million barrels a day in May, according to the International Energy Agency. *AP*

Oxfam says rich countries not playing fair

GENEVA—World Trade Organization talks aimed at liberalizing global commerce could end up giving an unfair boost to the farm trade of rich nations, the development aid charity Oxfam International said Wednesday.

"Alongside aid and debt, trade reform is crucial to help end poverty in the developing world," said Celine Charveriat, head of Oxfam's fair trade campaign.

"But rich countries are dodging the commitments they've made to reduce subsidies that hurt poor farmers overseas."

"At the same time, they're forcing poor countries to open their markets to unfairly subsidized produce. This duplicity threatens to turn the whole round of 'development' talks into a farce," Charveriat said in a statement.

WTO members launched the Doha Round of trade negotiations in 2001, aiming to break down more tariffs, subsidies and other barriers to free commerce and to try to use trade to fuel the economies of poor countries.

They are striving to complete the round by 2006 after working to find compromises that will resolve a series of splits between rich nations and their poor counterparts.

Developing countries—as well as some rich farm trading nations—are pushing for an end to farm subsidies they say unfairly skew the global market, often by allowing agricultural goods to be exported at below the cost of production.

"On paper it will appear that rich countries' commitments to reduce subsidies are genuine," Oxfam said in a report.

However, the charity criticized as "artificial" the distinction in trade talks between "good" subsidies that allegedly have no impact on world trade, such as income-support for farmers, and "bad," trade-distorting subsidies, including export assistance.

Rich countries have used WTO rules to reclassify their subsidies, shifting them from "bad" to "good," to avoid making genuine cuts, Oxfam claimed.

Thanks to such "re-labeling," the US would be able to increase its aid to farmers by $7.9 billion and the European Union by $28.8 billion, if they get their way in farm trade talks, Oxfam said. *AFP*

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week June 14, 2005	Last Week June 7, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.25348	1.25759
Managed Fund - Peso	1.36188	1.37490
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1124	1.1220

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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	June 10, 2005	June 6, 2005
Investment Funds of Wealth Builder		
Fixed Income Fund	1.033109	1.032782
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Equity Fund	1.000971	1.016764

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Avant: 2/F Greenbelt 4 **Complink:** Parksquare1, Basement - Shangri - La Mall, 3/F Robinson's Galleria, 4/F Cyberzone – SM Megamall, Cyberzone - SM Southmall, G/F Cyberzone SM North EDSA, SM Bacoor **Electroworld:** Parksquare 1, Alabang Town Center, G/F SM North EDSA, G/F Greenbelt1, 4/F Cyberzone - SM Megamall **E-Hub:** 2/F Cybermall - Eastwood City, 3/F Alabang Town Center **Globotel:** G/F Greenbelt 1, 4/F Market! Market!, 2/F Cybermall - Eastwood City **Mobile 1:** Parksquare 1, Basement Level - Podium, 2/F Rustan's Makati, G/F Rustan's Alabang Town Center **palmOne podCentral:** 3/F Digital Exchage - Glorietta 3 **Silicon Valley:** 4/F Cyberzone – SM Megamall, Parksquare1, G/F Cyberzone SM North EDSA, 3/F Alabang Town Center, 2/F SM Southmall, SM Pampanga

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Fortune General Insurance Corporation

Fortune GENERAL 50th Anniversary

Message

I CONVEY my warmest greetings to the men and women of Fortune General Insurance Corporation on your 50th anniversary, most especially to this year's outstanding sales producers.

I commend you for your tireless service to our people for 50 years now. By making available a wide range of non-life insurance products, Fortune General helps secure the financial well-being of countless Filipinos.

Your five decades of existence speaks well of your determination and commitment to educate and inform our people about the nature and benefits of insurance coverage, particularly of non-life insurance.

Your financial management service benefits our country as well, by providing a source of investible funds for productive economic activities.

Explaining the importance of insurance coverage to our people is a daunting task, and Fortune General deserves praise for choosing to carry on with this. May you keep up the good work and help our country beat the odds towards development.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I AM pleased to convey my greetings and congratulations to Fortune General Insurance Corporation as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Special greetings, too, to the top sales producers to be honored during the event.

The insurance industry in the Philippines has a commendable role in ensuring the well-being of our people. By putting its fund management capability at the service of our people, it helps the Filipino family fulfill its dream of a better quality of life for its members. Its service also helps our people cope with the unexpected when this arises.

I salute Fortune General Insurance for being a leader in the provision of this service to our people for five decades now. With its insurance protection in various categories-property, casualty, motor car, marine and other insurance products-it helps build a better life for our countrymen.

We pray the Almighty to bless your organization with fortitude, determination, commitment, and stronger capability to continue your service so that more and more Filipinos may enjoy the benefits of insurance coverage.

Once more, congratulations and more power.

MOST REV. ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO B. ROSALES, D.D.
Archdiocese of Manila

THE INSURANCE industry in the Philippines, both life and non-life, contributes to the socio-economic development of the nation through revenue generation. Today, however, much work still needs to be done in propagating and spreading the concept, principles, and benefits of insurance to our people.

Fortune General Insurance Corporation (FGIC) has been consistent in its effort to raise our people's insurance awareness in the last five decades. This commitment to the general public is a role that it has played and continues to play strongly today. The general coverage that FGIC offers-including property and casualty insurance, motor car, and marine insurance coverages-are now being availed of by a large number of our people.

I commend the men and women of Fortune General Insurance Corporation for its contribution to the capital development of the country by being one of the leading non-life insurers in the country today.

To the top sales producers who are being honored today, my warmest congratulations.

Mabuhay!

SECRETARY CESAR PURISIMA
Department of Finance

FORTUNE General Insurance Corporation marks its 50th anniversary at a critical time for the non-life insurance sector. Efforts to streamline and reform the industry have become vigorous with the merger early this year of the country's non-life insurance and re-insurance association to form a new group which is envisioned to address more effectively the issues and problems affecting the non-life insurers and pave the way for a unified representation of the Philippine non-life industry in international councils.

It is noteworthy that Fortune General Insurance was among the leading organizers of this new association through its president Mr. Michael Rellosa. Such active involvement in this major restructuring reflects the industry leadership role that the company has assumed since it was established 50 years ago.

My warmest greetings to Fortune General Insurance Corporation as it celebrates its 50th anniversary and honors its outstanding sales producers for 2004. May all the company's years of success serve as an encouragement to its men and women to forge ahead with the promotion and propagation of non-life insurance and inspire them more to continue their tremendous service to the nation by helping more Filipino families secure the well-being of their members and at the same time generate revenues that could be invested in socio-economic growth.

Congratulations and carry on!

COMMISSIONER BENJAMIN SANTOS
Insurance Commission

WE CELEBRATE our 50th anniversary this year fresh from taking two major initiatives that will more forcefully propel Fortune General Insurance Corporation toward its goal of becoming the Filipino's insurer of choice.

Two years ago, or in 2003, the then Fortune Guarantee & Insurance Corporation merged with Citystate Insurance Corporation. The merger, which left Fortune Guarantee as the existing company, brought about a stronger new entity in terms of the merged companies' paid-up capital, assets and expected gross premiums written.

Then, only last year, Fortune Guarantee took on a new identity as Fortune General Insurance Corporation, forming a coalition with Fortune Life Insurance Company and Fortune Medicare Inc. Together, these three coalesced companies became formally known as the Fortune Insurance Group.

The consolidation of our resources in this coalition invigorates our resolve and our commitment to deliver products and services of the highest quality of excellence to our people.

With a dedicated and hardworking sales force, whose outstanding members we are also honoring in this 50th year celebration, I am confident that Fortune General will continue to be an industry leader in the second half-century period of its life.

AMB. ANTONIO L. CABANGON CHUA
Chairman Emeritus

MY MOST heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all the men and women of Fortune General Insurance Corporation as it marks its 50th year of existence and service to our people. Warmest felicitations, in particular, to the outstanding officers and members of the sales force who are being honored for posting the highest sales production.

Reaching the half-century mark is a suitable time for taking stock of one's accomplishments. As in an individual's life, this applies as well to the life of a corporation such as Fortune General Insurance. Looking back to what we have done in the past 50 years, we will better identify what more we must do to reach our goal of becoming our people's insurer of choice.

Thus far, we can rest assured we have been successful in delivering non-life insurance products and services that meet our people's needs. Rendering service that would ensure our clients' financial well-being, we can honestly say we have effectively helped improve the quality of life of our people.

Through the years, we have built a solid image as a role model, a leader in the non-life insurance industry. On this 50th anniversary of Fortune General Insurance, let us all renew and strengthen our commitment to excellence. Let us sustain and preserve our industry leadership by providing effective, innovative and cost-effective non-life insurance products to our countrymen.

This way we can be sure of becoming and being recognized by our people as really the insurer of choice for Filipinos.

J. ANTONIO A. CABANGON JR.
Chairman & CEO

THE CURRENT economic landscape gives us the confidence to affirm our vision on this Golden Year: to become the Filipino's insurer of choice for his non-life insurance needs.

True, the past few years have been marked by global and domestic socio-political and economic uncertainties that threatened to derail us from our course of productivity and profitability. Thanks to our many years of experience, the management expertise and professional and technical skills that evolved throughout the years in the organization, Fortune General Insurance kept firmly to the path of growth.

Happily for us today, improvements in the economic environment encourage us to be more optimistic. Domestically, we see the peso strengthening against the dollar, growth in our export sector, political and economic reforms initiated by the government beginning to take effect. Globally, while anxieties persist about the Middle East and world oil prices, the outlook is brighter overall than the recent past years.

That we are celebrating our Golden Year with a new identity-as Fortune General Insurance following our merger with Citystate Insurance Corporation-is also a big reason to be more optimistic. This merger, as you all know, gives us stronger financials, a larger combined portfolio, an improved re-insurance treaty program, and a management team with a global outlook.

Having all these is in our favor, we firmly hold our place as a leader in the non-life insurance industry.

Congratulations to all the men and women of Fortune General Insurance Corporation, particularly its top sales producers for 2004. I am confident that with your support and cooperation, hard work and determination, we will remain our countrymen's insurer of choice.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

MICHAEL F. RELLOSA
President & COO

The Awardees

Special Achievement

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Francesca P. Faustino

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Winebrenner & Inigo Insurance Associates
Top Broker

FGC Insurance Agency
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(Multi-Concept, Inc. - SO)

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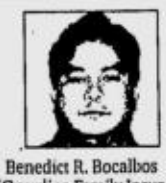

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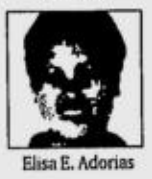

Elisa E. Adorias

Fortune General Insurance Corporation supports
Ten-Point Agenda to 'Beat the Odds' in six years

"BEAT THE ODDS-we will be our battle cry and agenda for the next six years"
--President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

What it stands for:

B - Balanced budget
E - Education for all
A - Automated elections
T - Transport and digital infrastructure to connect the country
T - Terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts
H - Heal the wounds of Edsa
E - Electricity and water for all barangays
O - Opportunities for 10 million jobs
D - Decongest Metro Manila
DS - Develop Clark and Subic

Protecting policyholders with safe investments

By Marlet D. Salazar

FOR A COMPANY to reach and survive 50 years is in itself a basis of trust. What more if it is established by the pillars in the business industry who knows only too well how to take good care of their clients?

Fortune General Insurance Corp evolved from a small non-life insurance firm to becoming a member of a bigger group of companies.

It was known as Fortune Insurance & Surety Co Inc (Fisco). Its incorporators include the who's who in the corporate world which include taipan Henry Sy, James Chiongbian, Martiniano G. Abad, Zoilo Alberto, Amado Q. Aleta, Jose Arañas, Jose Oledan, German Punzalan, and Isidoro A. Vera.

In the late 70s, Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua became the majority equity owner of Fisco. How he came into the picture was revealed in his biography by the late Nick Joaquin. He was then running his business Filipinas Pawnshop which gave him the opportunity to meet Don Ceferino M. Picache, president of Fisco then.

At present, Cabangon Chua holds the majority of the stock of Fortune General after buying the shares of Citystate Insurance owned by Liberty Mutual, an American company and merging it with his Fortune Guarantee and Insurance Corp in 2002. It is now a part of a much larger company, the ALC Group of Companies which has an asset base of P10 billion.

Fortune General specializes in non-life insurance. It has 30 branches nationwide which are linked to the head office in Pasig, using a state of the art Geniisys software developed by Computer Professionals Inc.

With all the challenges confronting the industry today, FGIC is quick to assure the public, especially its policyholders, of its commitment to them.

"Insurance is one of the most tightly regulated businesses in the country," said Michael F. Rellosa, FGIC president and chief operating officer.

Investments

Investments of non-life insurance companies like FGIC is being regulated and closely monitored by the Insurance Commission. It means that it cannot just go into a prospective venture if it is not listed in the record given by the commission. Insurance companies are required to secure first the approval of the Commission.

"The commission only allows certain investments for the insurance company," Rellosa said. "The benchmarks are that it should be in government securities, and it should be liquid," he adds.

If a company doesn't meet the criteria set by the commission it is bound to face sanctions or lose its license.

According to Leonora Zafra, executive vice president and chief finance officer, "It is much safer for insurance companies to invest in government securities."

In the company's review of operations last year, FGIC posted a 150-percent growth in net income from a net loss of P16.32 million in 2003 to a net income of P8.12 million in 2004.

As of Dec. 31 last year, the company generated total gross premiums of P312.40 million, which was 25-percent higher as compared to 2003 figure of P250.12 million.

Its total investments rose from P96.06 million to P103.88 million, showing an increase of 8 percent. FGIC's total assets went up by .7 percent from P561.49 million to P557.82 million.

Zafra cited the awareness of more people in the importance of having insurance. She said it is the more personalized services of insurance companies contributed to that their understanding.

"Most insurance companies now are focusing on personal lines," she said.

Challenges

FGIC offers the basic products of non-life insurance companies. But it also designs products distinct only to the company. Its research and development team comes up with packaged products that would suit the needs of a client be it business or individual. R&D product development team looks at the market and talk to the front liners which are the agents to know what are the product needs of the clients.

"For example the SMEs," explained Rellosa, "there are so many policies to buy for a business to be fully protected.

FGIC combined all the basics into one package so there would be only one policy, one payment, and one expiry date.

"We try to make it easier for the insurance public to be covered," he said.

FGIC aims to keep its line of communication to the public open.

"We have to communicate very clearly to the insured what his or her policy is all about," Rellosa said. "A lot of problems arise out of the misunderstanding of what the coverage really is."

What makes FGIC different from the hundred other insurance companies out there is that they communicate the attributes of the product to the client, and being a service company it is very important to not just sell the product more importantly attention should be given to the client after the sale is made. From the beginning, everything would be explained to the clients so they'd know that what they are buying suits them perfectly.

"It is very important that if the client has a question during the term of the policy, they can always call the company," said Rellosa. "We try to make the claim process as easy as possible for them."

FGIC strengths are its transparency and service.

"We have a competitive advantage on our service over the others because we don't compete on price," Rellosa said. "We find that it is not a very good strategy."

"Amid the trials surrounding the industry now, Fortune General Insurance Corp gives its assurance to the public that the company is here to stay to improve its services to them. According to Rellosa, their chair J. A. A. Cabangon Chua said: We've been in for 50 years and we're in for the long haul. We're committed."

Fortune GENERAL
"Service makes the difference"
A member of the Fortune Insurance Group
50 years
CORE VALUES
PROFESSIONALISM
We believe that we must act professionally at all times, which is the least that our customers and the people that we deal with, in the course of carrying out our duties can expect. To be professional means to act in accordance with generally accepted norms and to carry out our duties conscientiously.
RESPONSIBILITY
We must be aware of our responsibility to our clients and to the office we occupy; giving it at all times nothing less than what can be expected from us. To be responsible means to be sensible, trustworthy and accountable for ones' actions.
COMPETENCE
Our customers purchase our services because they expect a certain degree of expertise and the wherewithal to carry it out. Competency assumes skill, knowledge and the authority to carry these out for the greater good of our stakeholders.
DEDICATION
We must be devoted to our profession, our work, our tasks and our customers. These are the reasons we are employed and it is because of these that we are able to sustain our families and ourselves.
PROMPTNESS & A SENSE OF URGENCY
In the current knowledge (New) Economy, where speed is of the utmost importance, and where time is equated to money and lost opportunities, we must cultivate and nurture a sense of urgency where our day-to-day tasks are accomplished with speed and dispatch. It is our duty to accomplish what we can reasonably do today.
EXCELLENCE
To adopt standards of work and service that are exceptionally good - a cut above the rest and our distinguishing factor!
CORPORATE PROFILE
Fortune General Insurance Corporation traces its pedigree back 50 years to 1955, the establishment of Mutual Security Insurance Corporation which later evolved to Washington Insurance Corp. In November 1986, the ALC Group of Companies headed by its Chairman, H.E Ambassador Antonio Cabangon-Chua, acquired the majority share of the Corporation and changed its name to what is now Fortune General Insurance Corporation.
The ALC Group also ran another non-life entity known as Citystate Insurance Corporation, in partnership with British, then Singaporean and American partners, notable of which were the Lhuillier family and their Citystate Group and Liberty International of the US (a Fortune 500 Co.). In late 2002, Ambassador Cabangon-Chua bought out the majority share and ended up with control of two non-life insurance companies. In an era of globalization, a hardening market and stiff competition, logic dictated that both companies be merged.
On the 18th of July 2003, the Securities and Exchange Commission gave its approval for the merger, with FGIC as the surviving entity. The merger resulted in the Company with Ps 200M in paid-up capital, over Ps 500M in assets and an expected Gross Premium Written of Ps 450M by end 2005. Stronger financials, a larger combined portfolio, an improved re-insurance treaty program coupled with a new management team with international experience and a global outlook positions FGIC in the forefront of the industry.
To complete the transition, Fortune Guarantee & Insurance Corporation re-branded itself in late 2004, into Fortune General Insurance Corporation, and in the process adopted a new logo in line with the coalition of Fortune Life Insurance Co., Inc., Fortune Medicare Inc., and Fortune General Ins. Corp. into the Fortune Insurance Group.
The coalition of the three leaders in their respective fields of specialty was conceptualized with the benefit of their clients in mind. Clients may now obtain their various insurance and healthcare needs from one group and rely on their individual expertise, combined strength and a common culture of service.
As we go forward into our 50th year of service to the Filipino, we renew our commitment to our clients and aim to continue being the insurer of choice.
MISSION STATEMENT
FORTUNE GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, a non-life insurance company with half a century of experience exists to provide effective, innovative risk transfer tools and cost effective products. We are committed to excellence by adopting the best practices of an insurance company and we will serve as a role model in the industry as we strive to achieve and sustain the social and economic advantages of our clients, intermediaries, personnel and shareholders, thereby becoming the insurer of choice.
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Computer Professionals, Inc. – A Trusted Partner of Fortune General Insurance Corporation

Since 2002, Fortune General has found a trusted partner in Computer Professionals, Incorporated (CPI). Fortune General has been a satisfied customer of GENIISYS, the leading general insurance solution in the Philippines developed by CPI. With the support of CPI's IT consultants, FGIC was able to fully utilize the system after only a short implementation period.

Designed to improve productivity, GENIISYS helped FGIC achieve increased organizational effectiveness through the automation of their critical business processes. The issuance of quotations, policies and endorsements, distribution and reinsurance placement, premium collection and commission payment, claims processing and financial reporting are all tied up in one streamlined workflow. FGIC also benefited from GENIISYS' extensive reporting capability which includes government mandated reports.

Being an active member of the Geniisys Users Circle, FGIC contributed to the further enhancement of GENIISYS. They likewise gained from the exchange of ideas and business practices of their colleagues in the insurance industry who were also using GENIISYS.

As a trusted partner of FGIC and the other GENIISYS users, CPI remains committed to its tradition of quality, integrity and reliability.

From CPI, Congratulations and More Power!

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AdBoard launches 'Paggalang sa Mamimili' campaign

THE ADVERTISING Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) recently launched its advocacy campaign "Paggalang sa Mamimili (Respect for the Consumer)" at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

The campaign aims to reinforce the oft-forgotten commitment of the advertising industry to its market. It involves a two-pronged approach: internal for industry practitioners and media; and external for the general public.

ADBOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
From left: Lito Puyat of Primax Broadcasting; Jose Sy, Film Ads Philippines; Mitos Comahort, Image Dimensions; Ma. Belen Fernando, Alaska Milk Corp; Pepito R. Olarte, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Carlo Llave, The Fourth Dimensions Inc; Matec Villanueva, Jimenez-Basic Advertising; AdBoard chair Raul Alvarez, PLDT; Edgar Navalta, Asap; Tessie Celestino-Howard, Airtime Marketing; lawyer Gafar Lutian, Procter and Gamble Philippines; and Oscar Valenzuela, AdBoard executive director.

Commitment to general public

According to AdBoard chair Raul S. Alvarez, the thrust of the internal campaign is to remind industry practitioners that they have a commitment not only to their respective clients, but to the general public as well. "We all share the same values, which are truth and honesty, love for ourselves and our fellowmen, and of course love of country. We can use these values to sell our products," says Alvarez.

Alvarez further states that the consumers, in turn, need to be reassured that the AdBoard holds their interests close to their objectives. "We want them to know that the AdBoard does consider what is important to the consumer, and it is going to uphold what they value most: family, work, truth and honesty, and love for fellowmen and for country. We will not take them for granted, we will consider their values, their needs and wants, their attitudes, what is important to them."

Development via self-regulation

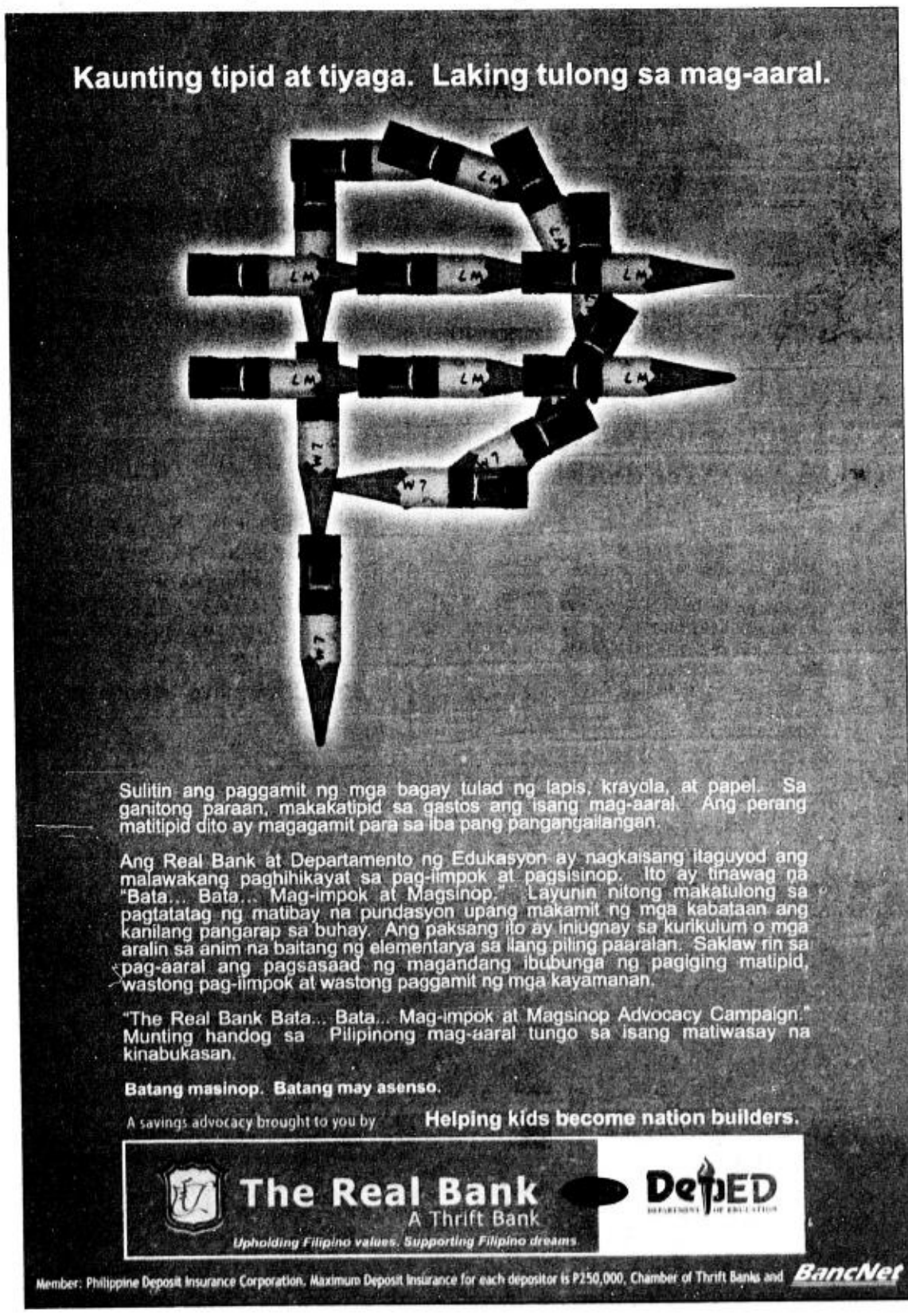
The AdBoard is the umbrella organization of professionals in the advertising practice functioning as the advertising industry's governing body. Its main objective is to promote the development of the advertising industry through self-regulation, in harmony with industry goals. The AdBoard is composed of 9 active member associations, namely, Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana); Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4As); United Print Media Group (UPMG); Independent Blocktimers Association of the Phils. (IBA); Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP); Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP); Cinema Advertising Association of the Philippines (CAAP); Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (Asap); and Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores).

FROM left: Bobby Banaag, Planters Development Bank; AdBoard director and Inquirer VP for advertising Olarte; Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Inquirer president and CEO; Jose Sy, AdBoard director, AdBoard corporate secretary Navalta and Peachy Fazon, Inquirer Publications Inc advertising manager.

ADBOARD chair Raul Alvarez

GUEST speaker Emily Abrera, chair emeritus, McCann Erickson

FROM left: AdBoard chair Raul Alvarez, vice chair Matec Villanueva and Emily Abrera.


Kaunting tipid at tiyaga. Laking tulong sa mag-aaral.
Sulitin ang paggamit ng mga bagay tulad ng lapis, krayola, at papel. Sa ganitong paraan, makakatipid sa gastos ang isang mag-aaral. Ang perang matitipid dito ay magagamit para sa iba pang pangangailangan.
Ang Real Bank at Departamento ng Edukasyon ay nagkaisang itaguyod ang malawakang paghihikayat sa pag-iimpok at pagsisinop. Ito ay tinawag na "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop." Layunin nitong makatulong sa pagtatatag ng matibay na pundasyon upang makamit ng mga kabataan ang kanilang pangarap sa buhay. Ang paksang ito ay iniugnay sa kurikulum o mga aralin sa anim na baitang ng elementarya sa iang piling paaralan. Saklaw rin sa pag-aaral ang pagsasaad ng magandang ibubunga ng pagiging matipid, wastong pag-iimpok at wastong paggamit ng mga kayamanan.
"The Real Bank Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop Advocacy Campaign." Munting handog sa Pilipinong mag-aaral tungo sa isang matiwasay na kinabukasan.
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Start the school year with a bang with the 'First Day Funk'

THE FIRST day of school has never been this funky. Gone are the days of worrying over your class schedules and room assignments. Nor should you furrow your brows over the fact that you've left your old pals behind. With Rexona's "First Day Funk" making its rounds in select universities nationwide, you've got every reason to start the new school year with a definitive bang and a large boost of confidence.

And there's no better way to funk it out than to spend the first day of school with the hilariously engaging Parokya ni Edgar. That's right, the sensational, hilarious band of Chito, Vinci, Gab, Darius, Buwi and Din Din is all set to rock school walls with its latest single "First Day Funk", a song they wrote to remind students everywhere that all one needs is confidence to make it through that awkward first day.

"Itaas ang kamay, iwagayway
Salute the prof at sabay kaway...,
Mag-classmate high-5 lang kayo
Now don't be shy, kwela skwela 'to
Just raise your hand kung may sagot
If you don't know the answer, eh di lagot!
Just erase the board, at magsayaw
Lagyan ng funk ang pag-galaw - sayaw!
Let's do the funk
Let's do the first day funk"

Watch out for the inimitable group as it invades Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao schools this June to bring its unique brand of music coupled with its quirky sense of humor through a mini concert that's bound to leave everyone in high spirits for the rest of the school year. The exuberant First Day Funkistas will also be on the lookout for students who can dance the First Day Funk (FDF) signature steps ala Parokya ni Edgar- "Salute the Prof", "Raise Your Hand", "Classmate High Five", "Erase the Board" and "Dunno the Answer". Better yet, the Funk Patrol Ambush will be featured in "Wazzup Wazzup", "MTV Get Spotted" and Myx.

So polish up those dance moves, ham it up for the cam and sashay your way to fantastic prizes like printers and limited edition Parokya CDs containing the FDF song and music video. Raise your arms in merriment and flaunt the cool confidence that you've got.

Apart from these, you can also be the grand million-peso winner or be one of the 50 new owners of laptops from Rexona with the "First Day Funk" promo. Just text REXONA to 2955 for more details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2005

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MAKATI PRIME TOWER FULLY FURN. 24SQ 1.15M 09217985148

Mkti Condo 2.8M
2BR 2TB FA78m² 9125847

Oriental Gardens Makati 45.5m² 2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843952

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FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL 29/F 306 SQM 4BR 5TB VIEW OF GOLF,CITY,SEA, BETTER THAN NEW. UP GRADED!
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2BR 114m² prking & balcony RFO 7.5M neg 0918-9392979

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PARANAQUE

Chateau De Bay Condo
171.78m² incl carpark fully furn P30T rent P4M sale neg
0921-5799456 Aileen

PASAY

RFO, PENTHOUSE, 4BR, 202.50² DP-3.8M 0922-3964587

PASIG

AIC Condo 2BR 167m² w/park FF Sale P7.9M/Rent P50,000 671-7361 • 671-9484

RENAISSANCE 3000 3BR 167m² w/park Sale P7.9M/Rent P 50,000 09174742554 671-7361 • 671-9484

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P1.5M Terms 9125976

Katipunan Townhouses
Near Miriam, Ateneo & U.P.
Installment • 0918-9373052

New Mla LA137 FA330 4br 4tb 3cg New P11.5M 7119051

Old Balara LA-72 FA-130 3BR 3TB 2CG New P3.5M 7119051

Sct Area: LA-80 FA-195 4BR 3TB 2CG New P6M 7119051

TEACHER'S VIL
18Mahabagin St 5BR 4T&B
9132701 / 0918-9356366

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

SAN JUAN

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsm/1-2grge
P3.645M up 8903461

Nr. Greenhills Thse Blg 7239126

OTHER AREAS

Boracay Condotel 3.8M
EARN P520T/Yr. ROI 5Yrs.
P75T/mo. or 1Yr. No Interest
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LOT

MANILA

900 m² 2227 Taft Ave. nr LaSalle T#8992148/ 09173270675

MANDALUYONG

Comm'l Lot Edsa 400m² 6453731

PASIG

PillarVill lot for sale P5,500/m² 120sqm neg. 8204392/8252434 clean title direct buyer only

QUEZON CITY

Filinvest I&II
300m² &up 9125847/3744

OTHER AREAS

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1.8M Up 10% DP 5Yrs No Int. 300m² Lots, Condo, T-Hse, H&L, FREE Golf Share 0917-8313226

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Mamplasan, Binan, Laguna LA176sqm P500K + Asme. Balnce (thru pag-ibig or bank loan) or cash. DBO. 0917-8997547 Jona

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB w/s-pool 0928-7102225

MAKATI

•3BR FORT BONI 8872865•

MANDALUYONG

2BR 2TB Grg 0918-9336940

Highway Hills 2BR T&B with Tel., Garage • 532-6405

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

Stud V.Luna 7T & up 815-6172

APARTMENT

MAKATI

7030 D. WILSON ST NKT NR MKT MED (0917)5405281

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QUEZON CITY

Cubao 7,500 2sty 2BR 9121163

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Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA PTAMO 38/57/149/185/MF 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

Dentist Loan 0919-5202084

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

MAKATI

Makati Manila RFO CONDO Sale / Rent 09176266516

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

OTHER AREAS

3stry apt 2.5M Paco #5233840

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VAN/PICK-UP

2001 Frontier 4x2 M/T P480T Neg. 0919-8707359

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Terrano Trooper Surf Delica Largo Estima Town-Hi-Lite Ace etc T-In Terms 9120647 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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CAR (M/T A/T) VANS (8-15P) T 9386198 4270344

CAR VANS 929-2811

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 6989956•8957247

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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CARS FOR RENT

VANS • CARS 7268368

CAR LOAN

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1.5% Car Loan 5344441
1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519
1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361
1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48
1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765
1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55
1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140
1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43
1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75
2% w/o Taking Car 7252780
2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95
2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33
2% w/oTaking Car 8959454
2% w/oTaking Car 7221021
2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82
2% w/out taking car 6567685
2% w/out taking car 5315577
2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

GARAGE SALE

Verdana Homes
2day Garage Sale-food, toys, furniture, books, magazines, electronic davices, appliances, clothes and collectibles
Clubhouse-Social Hall
June 18 to 19, 2005
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY

SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT

To allow more candidates to join the search for MSU President, the Screening and Selection Committee announces the following:

1. Extension of deadline of submission of applications and all requirements: **4 July 2005**
2. Qualifications:
   Morally upright, Filipino Citizen with outstanding academic and administrative experience

Additional information may be obtained from and application should be submitted to:

OFFICE OF DR. CRISTINA DAMASCO PADOLINA
Commission on Higher Education
5/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 638-1870

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NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
UPON Deed of Cancellation made and entered into this June 10, 2005 by KABUL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION and ROGELIO VILLAROSA and LUZVIMINDA IGNACIO; and ILDEFONSO ALBA to cancel the Land Purchase Agreement dated June 15, 1978 and February 22, 1977 respectively over Lot No. 12 and 29 Block 7 and 9 of Pecsonville Subdivision, Tungkong Mangga, San Jose Del Monte City, as acknowledged by Notary Public CESAR D. TURIANO Doc. No. 226 and 227 Page No. 47 Book No. IV series of 2005. Notice to the interested parties and to the public is hereby served pursuant to its rights granted by R.A. 6552. Quezon City, Philippines.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

P2,000 lang, Sarili ng Bizniz na!0917-4031797

QC Carshop 500m² 8974697 3ST

RTW CONSIGN 09178830002

RTW Consign 09178830002

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MKTI FASTFUD 09175351015

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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DRIVER STAY-IN 8733928

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CT SCAN X-RAY TECH S F LIC 2640 RIZAL AVE STA CRUZ ML 7111967 / 7126452

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
BIDDING FOR SECURITY SERVICES FOR FY 2005-2007
No. 2005 – 012 s

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS), wishes to invite duly licensed Companies or Business firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of **Security Services at its Central Office, its Service Offices for Manila, Quezon City, and Las Piñas, its PHIC-OWWA Office, its PHIC Site in Quezon City, and its Rosario Warehouse for Fiscal Year 2005 to 2007.**

The approved budget for this two-year contract of Security Services is **Php 37,000,000.00** coming from **C.O.B. 2005.**

Bid documents can be obtained from **June 12 - 24, 2005**, 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office, (Room 1107) 11th floor, PHILHEALTH, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php10,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 27, 2005** at **1:30p.m.** at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office (Room 1804).

Deadline of **Submission of Bids** will be on **July 11, 2005 at 12:00 noon** at the office of the BAC Secretariat (Room 1804) 18th Floor, PHILHEALTH, Citystate Centre. **Opening of Bids** will follow at **1:30 p.m.** at the same date and venue. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (Office of the BAC Secretariat). **Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.**

(Sgd.) OCTAVINO Q. ESGUERRA
Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary
Chairperson, BAC for Goods and Services

(PDI–June 11 & 17, 2005)

MACTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LAPU-LAPU CITY — **CEBU AUTHORITY** PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority through its BID and AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) with office address at Mactan, Lapulapu City, invites all interested individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and cooperatives with at least Five (5) years experience in Security Surveillance System installation works and had contract experience of the same nature and complexity for the contract to be bid ("same" must be at least 50% of the cost for the contract to be bid), to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for CCTV Surveillance System of the MCIAA. The approved Budget for the contract **Php 13,815,000.**
2. The scope of works includes but not limited to the following:
   a. Supply / Installation of a complete CCTV Surveillance System (U.S. Canada, Europe and Japan "made" only) and its components with a total of Fifty Eight (58) cameras.
   b. Construction of Surveillance Management Room with complete furnishings.
3. Interested bidders shall submit a Letter of Intent and secure a copy of Eligibility Screening Documents from the BAC Secretariat after payment of Non Refundable Fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.

Issuance of Eligibility Screening Documents at BAC office	June 11 to 21, 2005
Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, Documents, Statements and Contractor's License	July 1, 2005
Distribution of Bid Documents at BAC office during office hours upon payment of a non refundable fee of P6,900.00.	July 19, 20 & 21, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference	July 28, 2005 at 10:00 AM
Bid Opening	August 10, 2005 at 10:00 AM

4. For more detailed information, the bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (032) 340-2486 local 2050/2051 or at telefax no. (032) 341-4617.
5. MCIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, postpone any of the aforementioned scheduled BAC activities (if absolutely necessary), assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders of any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) M/GEN. ADELBERTO F.YAP (Ret)
General Manager

(PDI – June 10 & 17, 2005)

AUCTION **www.henrybutcher.com**

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION
AT: HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER - HILON COMPOUND, BO. MAYAPA, CANLUBANG, LAGUNA
ON: TUESDAY 21ST JUNE 2005 - 10:30AM SHARP

SPORTS FIELD MAINTENANCE EQUIPT; GENERATING/WELDING SETS; PACKAGING EQUIPT; POWER/HAND TOOLS; CAR ACCESSORIES; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; MISC.

SPORTS FIELD MAINTENANCE - JACOBSEN 20" Commercial Mowers (5); JACOBSEN J522 Walk Behind Mowers (3); JACOBSEN 526 Walk Behind Mowers (6); TORO Reil Master Mowers (2); MITSUBISHI Mini Roller; BOBCAT Skid Loader;
GENERATING/WELDING SETS - (2) AIRMAN SDG 60S 60/45 kva Silent type Generators; DENYO 25 kva Silent Type Generator; (2) SHIN KOBE 6000/5000 SL 7.8/6.5 kva Sound Proof Generators; DENYO 280SS Welder/Generator; UNION CARBIDE Welding m/c, etc.
PACKAGING EQUIPMENT - LANTECH Stretch Wrapper; KALUSH Bottler Neck Bander; WELBILT Varimixer; Ribbon Mixer/Blender; REEVE MCBRADY Stainless 100 Bottle Rinser; UNA Strip Packer; ZANISI SPA Capsule Sorter, etc.
POWER/HAND TOOLS - DENYO Pressure Washer; MAKINA Cut-Off m/c; BLACK & DECKER 180 mm Masonry Cut-Off Wheel; HITACHI C8BF 185mm Bandsaw; MAKITA Impact Drill/Angle Grinders Sets; Support Plus Impact Drills; HITACHI Koki Disc Grinder; Electric Jack Hammer; Baldwin Pipe Threader; Venus Ring Spanner Sets; Adjustable Wrenches, etc.
CAR ACCESSORIES - HONDA Access Fog Lamps; Super Sport Fog Lamps; OTTER Seat Covers; TOYOTA REVO Bull Bars w/ Fog Lights; IGLOO Car Coolers, etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Wooden Office Tables; Wooden Cab.; Steel Filing Cab.; Steel Storage Cab.; Office Chairs; Computer Monitors; FELLOWS Paper Shredder; Calculators; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - EBARRA Steam Boiler; ORWAK Baling Press; Grace Park Baling Press; FUJI SAIKE Slurry Pump; Glass Tape Cutters; GASULLETTE Portable Stove w/ Tank, etc.

On View: Monday 20th June 2005 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php5,000 (upon registration)
For further information please contact Carol Cosca at Tel: 049 834 6541
Email: carol.cosca@henrybutcher.com

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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Mactan Economic Zone I

Project No. _____
Supply of Electrical Equipment for Transco MEZ I, MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City

Standard Form Number: SF-Goods - 05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, Mactan Economic Zone I, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers and distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Name of Project	:	SUPPLY FOR ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT FOR TRANSCO-MEZ I
Location	:	PEZA, Mactan, Economic Zone I, Airport Road, Lapu-lapu City, Philippines
Brief Description	:	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, TRANSFORMERS & WATTHOUR DEMAN METERS
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	P6,000,000.00
Contract Duration	:	THREE (3) MONTHS
Delivery Period	:	THREE (3) MONTHS from the receipt of the winning bidder of the Notice or Award and signing of the Conract with MEZ I.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 24 months, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Awards of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 10 to June 17, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	June 23, 2005 2:00 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	July 4, 2005 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	July 5, 2005
5. Post-qualification	July 12, 2005
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED (P2,500.00) 00/100 PESOS to the MEZ I Cashier.

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) BELENIA B. LOBITAÑA
MEZ I BAC Chairperson

(PDI--June 10 & 17, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-197

RE : Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

JOMALIA SHIPPING CORPORATION,
Applicant.
x----------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates.

1. **For Liner Operation**

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV AIMEE JOAN	Carriage of Passengers and Rolling Cargoes

Route/s to be served

Bacolod City – Dumanggas and vice versa

Sailing Frequency(ies)/Schedule

DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Bacolod	Daily	5:30 AM	Dumanggas	Daily	7:00 AM
Dumanggas	Daily	8.00 AM	Bacolod	Daily	9:30 AM
Bacolod	Mon-Sat	11:30 AM	Dumanggas	Mon-Sat	1:00 PM
Dumanggas	Mon-Sat	2:00 PM	Bacolod	Mon-Sat	3:30 PM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Bacolod	Dumanggas	Aircon	P100.00
		Economy	P 80.00

RORO RATES

LINKS		Type of Vehicle	Lane Meter	Rate/Unit
From	To			
Bacolod	Dumanggas	Heavy Equipment	14-18	4,000.00
		10-wheeler truck	14-18	1,900.00
		8-wheeler truck	14-18	1,700.00
		6-wheeler truck	31-50	1,500.00
		4-wheeler truck	31-50	800.00
		Motorcycle	Below 200	250.00
		Tricycle	Below 200	350.00

FOR TRAMP OPERATIONS:

Name of Ship/s	Area of Operation	Service/s offered/to be offered
LCT GWEN VIDA	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
LCT MARC JASON - 1	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes

The Applicant shall cause then publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships. Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 21 June 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 3rd day of June 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – June 17, 2005)

WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Fax No. 321-17-97
E-mail Address: wvmc@mozcom.com

Project Reference Number: 001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH - Western Visayas Medical Center through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Supply and delivery of Various Pharmaceuticals
Location	:	Western Visayas Medical Center
Brief Description	:	The Bidder shall provide the supply and delivery of Various Pharmaceuticals
Approved Budget For the Contract	:	Php 22,991,176.92
Contract Duration	:	6 months
Delivery Period	:	Within fifteen days after receipt of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 13 - 30, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	June 21, 2005
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (if single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity)	N/A
4. Opening of Bids	July 5, 2005
5. Bid Evaluation	July 6-18, 2005
6. Post-qualification	July 19-26, 2005
7. Notice of Award	August 2, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the DOH – Western Visayas Medical Center cashier.

The DOH – Western Visayas Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved

ESTRELLITA G. REY, MD, FPPS
BAC-CHAIRMAN

(PDI – June 10 & 17, 2005)

Philippine Daily Inquirer
MESSAGEBOARD

A DAD'S DAY TREAT

Let the country know how much your dearest **FATHER** means to you by writing him a **deeply felt love note** in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On **June 19, Fathers' Day, Inquirer Classifieds** will publish personal ads dedicated to the **fathers** on his special day.

Ikaw ang pinakamagandang regalo ipinagkaloob sa akin ng Diyos. Mahal na mahal kita!
SCC
1 col X 5 cm = P 500

Papa Darwin,
Happy Father's Day! We love you!
Darla & Ken
2col X 3 cm = P 500

Daddy Rading,
Any man can be a father but it takes a special person to be called Dad!
Baby Lanz
1col X 3 cm = P 200

Daddy Jojo,
Thank you for all the love you shower on us...
Jojo, Jojo, Jappy & Jofo
1 col X 2 cm = P 100

Dearest Daddy Esay,
I always thank the Lord for having you everyday, giving me what you think is necessary and proper.

Happy Father's Day! God bless you always!
Love,
Ching
2 col X 5 cm = P 1,000

Grab this offer and this **GIFT** is what your **FATHER** truly deserves.
For more info, you may visit or call any Inquirer branch.

MAKATI (MAIN): PASONG TAMO AVE., COR. YAGUE & MASCARDO STS. MAKATI CITY ☎ 897-8808 loc. 614, 616 ☎ 897-8425 (Direct) 🖷 897-8425 e-mail: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
MAKATI BRANCH: GF ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY ☎ 811-4381 / 811-4370 811-4186 / 811-4012 🖷 892-5578 e-mail: makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
QUEZON CITY: ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., 891 AURORA BLVD., CUBAO, QC ☎ 912-9008 to 10 🖷 912-9011 e-mail: cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
MANDALUYONG: SM MEGAMALL, 5TH LEVEL BUILDING B, EDSA ☎ 635-0219 / 637-2008 🖷 635-0220 e-mail: sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
MANILA: GF TRINITY BLDG., T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA ☎ 527-3342 / 528-2183 528-0186 🖷 528-0213 e-mail: mla_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
PROVINCIAL BRANCH: PASONG TAMO AVE., COR YAGUE & MASCARDO STS. MAKATI CITY ☎ 897-8808 loc. 243 ☎ 899-4427 (Direct) 🖷 897-8425 e-mail: robel@inquirer.com.ph

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VP De Castro is NREA Golfest guest

VICE President Noli L. 'Kabayan' de Castro, concurrent chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), leads the ceremonial tee-off during the Annual Chairman's and President's Cup golf invitational tournament of the National Real Estate Association (NREA) on June 17, 2005, 7:30 a. m. at the all-weather Kagitingan Golf Club inside Ft. Bonifacio, Makati City.

According to engr. Juan P. Concepcion, Jr., NREA sports czar and vice president for business development, some 75 players are expected to participate in this tournament held in honor of NREA founder & chairman Jose 'Ka Pepe' V. Manalad and NREA national president Archt. Nestor S. Mangio, two-time president of United Architects of the Phils. (UAP).

Joining the ceremonial tee-off are Pag-IBIG president & CEO Romero F. S. Quimbo, Goodyear Phils. president David Joseph Morin, Philsoc chair Obet Pagdanganan and NBI chief Reynaldo G. Wycoco.

Tournament director Ross Balanza said the major sponsors include : Charter Chemical & Coating Corp. (DAVIES), Home Development Mutual Fund, BIFLEX, Useç Reynaldo G. Wycoco and San Miguel Corp.

The other sponsors are Sen. Manny Villar, Jr., Gov. Tommy N. Joson III, Congressman Albert S. Garcia, Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC), National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., Surewell Equities, Inc., MacroAsia Properties Dev. Corp. and Dr. Nathaniel von Einsiedel.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-147

RE : Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

JEHAN SHIPPING CORPORATION,
Applicant.
x----------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/ to be Offered
MV JEHAN	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV JEHAN-2	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV JEHAN-3	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV DUANE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV PHANNIE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **21 June 2005** at **2:00 p.m.** at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/ posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/ decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.** this 8th day of June 2005, in Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **GLENN G. CABANEZ**
Regional Director

(PDI–June 17, 2005)

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT
HOLY CROSS
DASMARIÑAS
CEBU
DAVAO
(632) 815 1875 or 90
(632) 893 8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

I will always thank the Lord; I will never stop praising Him; I will praise Him for what He has done.

Psalm 34:1

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

PEDRO S. DECENA

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 16, 2005 at the age of 92.

His loving wife **Natividad**; children **Danito, Doris** and **Maynard, Dennis** and **Sarah, Ditas, Dina** and **Harry, Dexter** and **Encarnita**; grandchildren **Mark, Dorinna, Rica May, Katharine, Denise, Kimberly, Stephanie, Julian, Cherisse** and **Dominic**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Parish, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Don Bosco Parish at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2005.

Interment will follow immediately at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"Lord my allotted portion and my cup, you have made my destiny secure..."
Psalm 16:5

Message of Thanks

We, the bereaved family of the late

SK ATTY. MANOLITO N. FUENTES

St. Martin de Porres Council No. 11997
Philippine Centennial Assembly ACN 2584
28 November 1950 – 04 June 2005

convey our heartfelt gratitude to all who, in many ways, served as instruments of God's loving concern and generosity. We deeply appreciate your offerings of Holy Masses, prayer, flowers, vigils and other expression of sympathy, which is consolation enough to ease the pain of our loss.

FUENTES FAMILY his loving wife **Jocelyn "Joy" Etruiste**, daughter **Mary Jullenne "Megan"**, father, **Teopisto**, mother **Wilfreda**; brothers and sisters: **Ven, Jeremy, Pauline, Dennis, Errol, Steve** and **Grace**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and relatives.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

DAMIAN MACALINTAL PINE

(September 24, 1929 - June 11, 2005)

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 11, 2005 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **PINAY**; children **BONNIE, MARISSA, LARRY, PERRY & GRACE, ROD & APRIL, NENE & BOY, MAR & KAREN**; brothers **ANTONIO** (†), **BENITO, FELIPE & ROGELIO**; sisters **SALUD** (†) & **TRINIDAD** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 1-B) located at 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 19, 2005, Sunday at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Thank You

To all those who shared our loss and celebrated in thanksgiving the life of

PACIFICO NAZARIO NIGUIDULA

who joined our Lord on June 2, 2005.

From wife, **Remedios**; children, **Cesar, Eny, Noel, Edna, David, (May)** and **Jet.**

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

•LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507, 873-0024

•MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284

•MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812993, 2813034, 2810522

•MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

•MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Maruguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3084
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0857, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447

•MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
28 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3678; Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

•PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1295; 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 620-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220

•PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-3797; 844-7848; 843-1801; 845-4636

•PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735

•QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalayaan St., Quezon City Tels. 749-3805 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0857; 714-0858
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9266/87

•TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL

•ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City; Tels. (052) 820-0188; 0917-2074152

•BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132

•BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

•BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766

•BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

•CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3368; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Would anyone who knows the whereabouts of Mr. RIZALDY ALFARO, please contact Mr. John M. Pickavant, Solicitor for Madam RUEBKE, LOUIFE RODRIGUEZ formerly known as LOUIFE A. RODRIGUEZ, the natural mother of the infant RODRIGUEZ, LORD RAYMOND

Tel. No. : 852-2625 0068
Fax No. : 852-2625 1268
Address : Rooms 1501-2, Two Grand Tower, No. 625 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong, SAR
E-mail : pickavan@netvigator.com

(PDI – June 17, 2005)

FCMC 477/2005

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINSITRATIVE REGION MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 477 OF 2005

BETWEEN
DAISY RODRIGUEZ Petitioner
And
EDMONDO BARONA Respondent

A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE UNDER-MENTIONED EDMONDO BARONA, may apply at the Family Court Registry at M2 Wanchai Law Court, No.12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong SAR for a copy of the Petition. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Registrar.

(PDI – June 17, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-155

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

AMPARO SHIPPING CORPORATION,
Applicant.
x----------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATIONS:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s offered/to be Offered
MV ALEX	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV ROYAL ALAN	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV KING ANDREW	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV DONA AMAPARO	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV SANDRA	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MTKR ALVIN	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **21 June 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.**, this 10th day of June 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI - June 17, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF SECURITY AGENCIES

The PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO) will be accepting applications for accreditation from licensed private security agencies.

Accreditation Forms shall be available for issuance at the PMO, 4th Floor, Asset Management and Custodianship Division, upon presentation of original PNP / SAGSD license to operate, PADPAO certification and payment of P300.00 non-refundable fee. Both PNP / SAGSD-issued license to operate and PADPAO certification should be unexpired before the submission of the required accreditation forms.

Security agencies that have been accredited by and/or previously engaged by the Asset Privatization Trust (APT) and PMO and/or currently doing business with PMO are not required to participate.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Accreditation Forms and other requirements shall be at 3:00 P.M. of June 30, 2005 at the PMO, 6th Floor Conference Room, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. George Keyser at 818-4625 or Mr. Loreto Santos at 817-6661.

(PDI–June 16, 17 & 18, 2005)

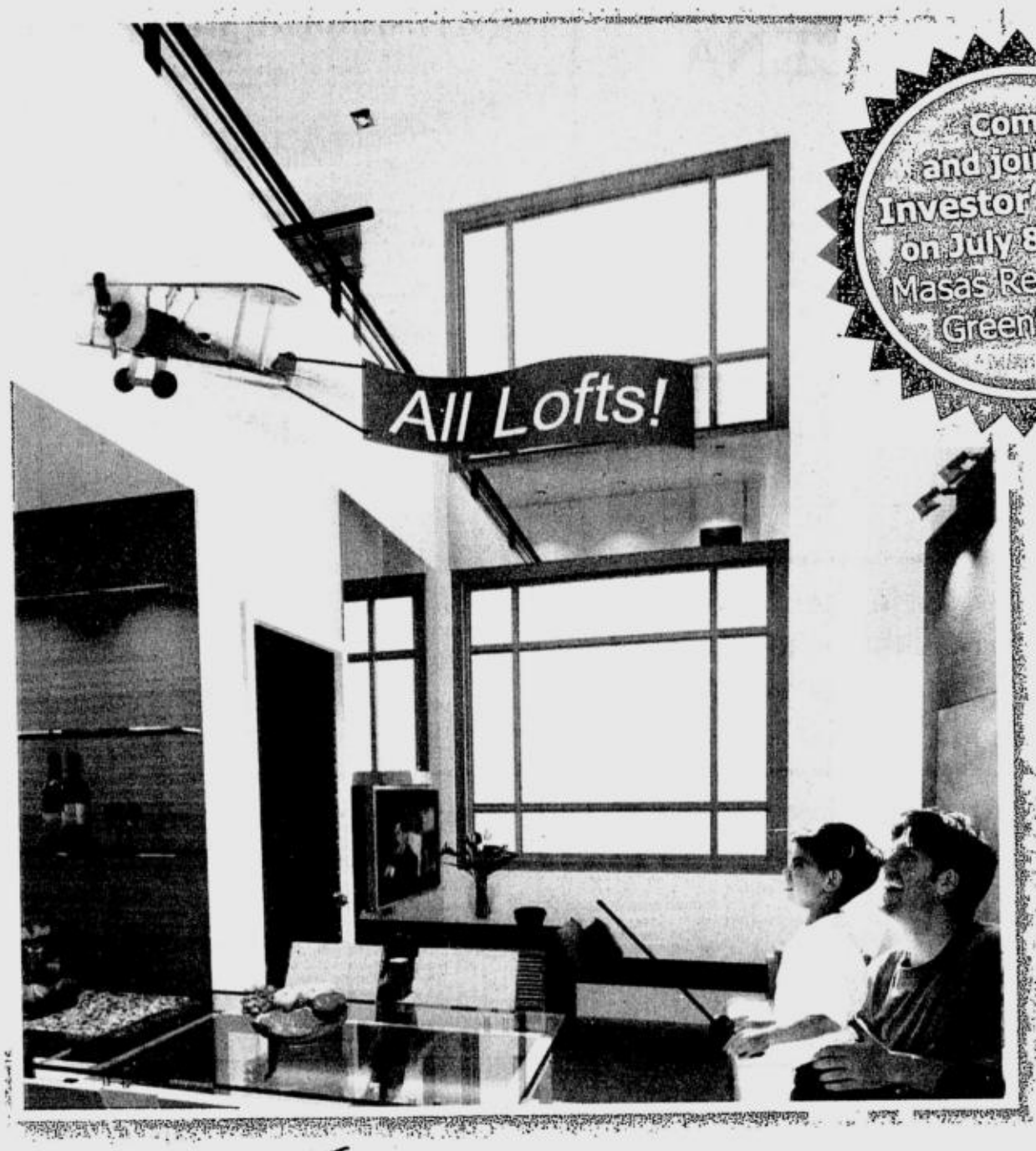
POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

DBP, SMC TIE-UP TO ASSIST FARMER GROUPS

STATE-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) entered into an agreement with San Miguel Corporation (SMC) to assist accredited assemblers/consolidators grow their businesses particularly in the production of corn, cassava and optionally soybeans and sorghum. Specifically, DBP shall extend technical assistance and loans to qualified program beneficiaries accredited by San Miguel Foods Inc., a subsidiary of SMC, for their post-harvest facilities and working capital requirements. DBP president and CEO Reynaldo G. David said that the SMC Assemblers Program raims to fast-track the generation of economic activities in the countryside through the 'Big Brother-Small Broker' development strategy. Funds for the program will be tapped from the P8 billion allocated for SMEs. SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang is shown in photo shaking hands with DBP president and CEO Reynaldo G. David after the signing of the agrement held at the DBP headquarters in Makati City last June 10, 2005.

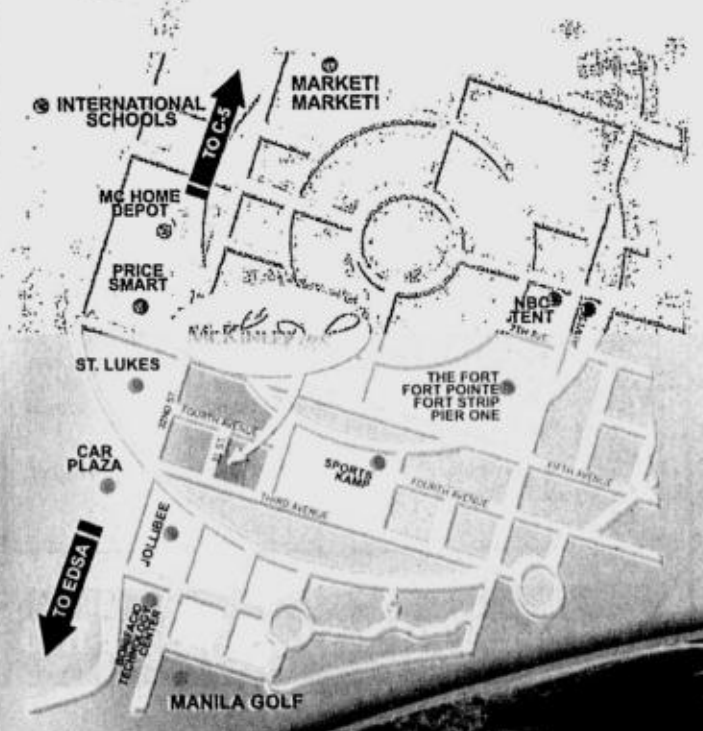
McKinley Park RESIDENCES

@ BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY



Come and join our Investor's Night on July 8 • 6pm Masa's Restaurant Greenbelt 2

The Comforts of HOME... The Pleasures of Condo LIVING...



Now, the good life can be owned and enjoyed right next to everything in the Bonifacio Global City.

Presenting McKinley Park Residences, the first All Loft-Type condo development in the country's future business capital. Each unit is designed to optimize space and functionality for various areas of the home, as well as ensure much-valued privacy of a second level master's bedroom. Available in affordable one bedroom and the two and three bedroom corner units. You are instantly treated to exquisite amenities and breathtaking views of the city skyline as well as the lush greens of Manila Golf.

With commercial spaces conveniently located at the podium, you don't need to go far to avail of your daily needs.

Come and enjoy a world of your own, at prices within reach.

For announcement purposes only

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

636-0888 • 0922-8380888

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

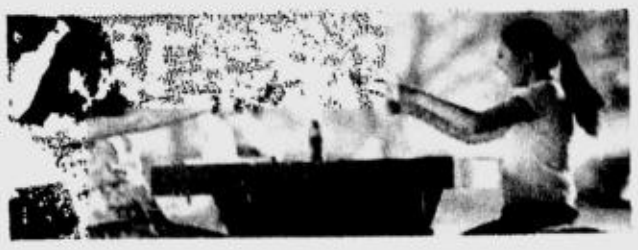
B2-1

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ **Best ads for 2004 win gold** /B2-2

■ **How do I get marketing and sales to work in sync?** MARKETING RX /B2-2

■ **Tapping into hidden business talents** /B2-3

Head Home to

KAWAYAN COVE

Actual shot of Bamboo Beach, Nasugbu, Batangas

The name Bamboo Beach has an almost mythic ring to it. Many people have heard stories about it, but only a few have ever set foot on its natural white sands.

Kawayan Cove is the exclusive residential enclave on the verdant slopes that surround the fabled beach.

For generations, only the owners have had homes at this legendary locale. Now you can be one of the few who head home to Kawayan Cove.

KAWAYAN COVE
Bamboo Beach, Nasugbu, Batangas

845-1581 • 843-9136 / 37
www.kawayancove.com

KAWAYAN COVE

Undoubtedly the most exclusive and private seaside residential community in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Entrance Gate

The name Bamboo Beach has an almost mythic ring to it. Many people have heard stories about this fabled locale but only a few have ever set foot on its natural white sands. A spectacular 650 meter crescent on the western coast of the Batangas shoreline, it is protected from the prying eyes of the outside world by twin headlands.

Surrounding this secluded retreat is a 61-hectare private enclave known as Kawayan Cove. It is composed of a limited number of prime residential lots, ranging from 500 to 2,000 square meters, situated on dramatic slopes between shore and summit. The highest elevation is 127 meters above sea level, providing homeowners with a breathtaking view of the South China Sea. For those who are environment-conscious, the good news is that the cove is a sanctuary for natural vegetation and existing fauna.

Luxuriate in the comfort of modern seaside living

Kawayan Cove artfully blends the natural and the man-made. All the homes in this residential seaside community are envisioned to merge subtly with the lush, tropical environment. World-class facilities have been designed to complement a sacred approach to nature. Land, sea and cultural heritage are safeguarded to enrich the community,

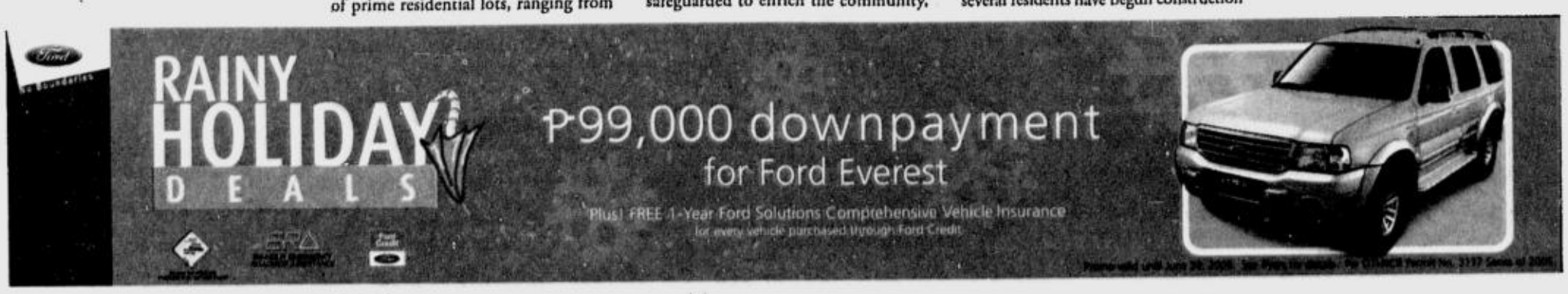
Bamboo Beach Club Pavilion

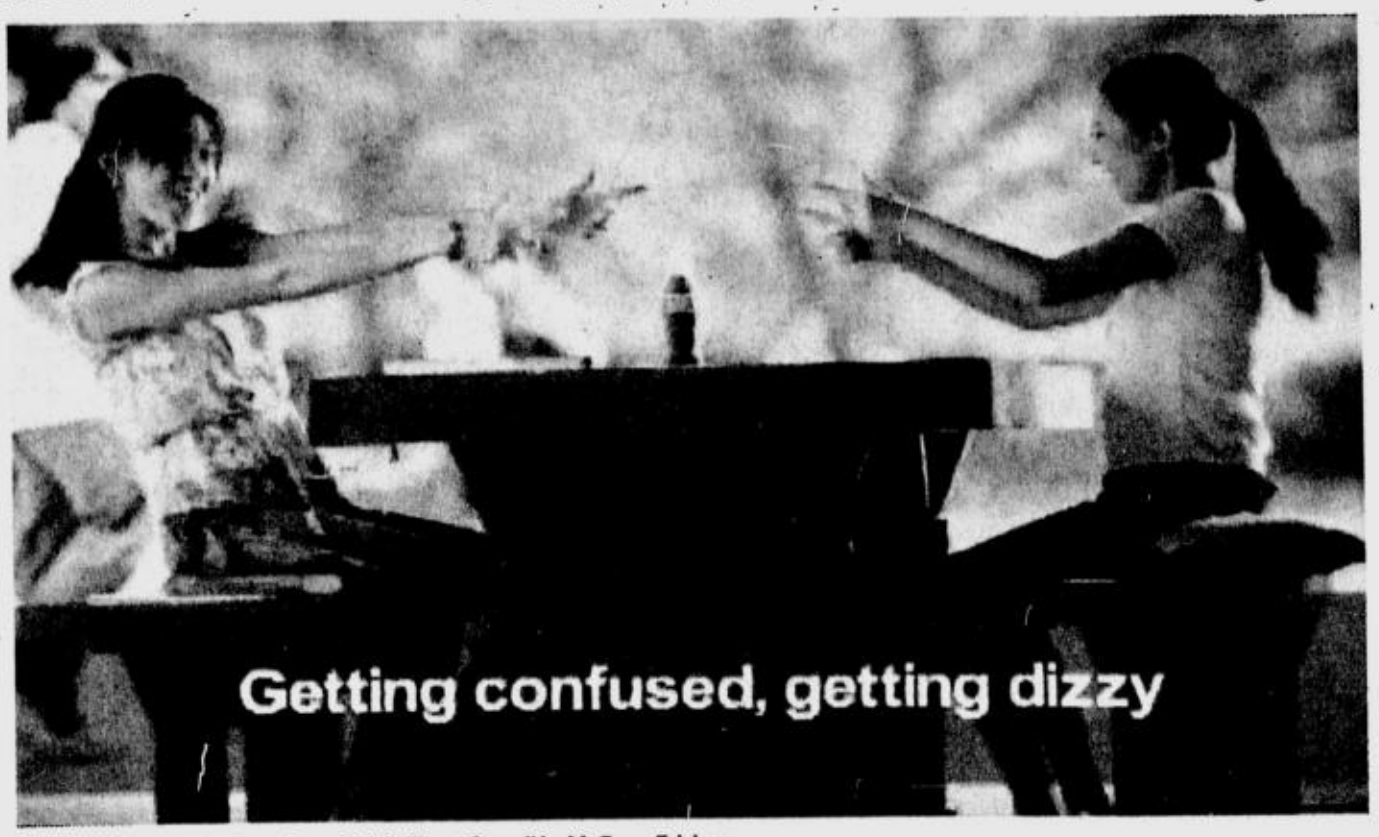
thus making Kawayan Cove truly priceless. A weekend getaway, a summer haven and a luxurious, secluded second home, Kawayan Cove makes living an ideal idyll.

Since development began in 2002, progress has been steady. So far, 75% of road networks and subterranean cabled utilities have been completed. The first several residents have begun construction on their future abodes. Homeowner facilities like the Meditation Point, the Beach Pavilion, the Welcome Pavilion and the Beach Houses have all been completed. Coming soon is the inauguration of the Sports and Recreation Area, where residents can enjoy the kiddie pool, the children's playground, picnic grove, barbecue area, tennis court and basketball court. Anticipation is riding high on the availability of more view lots in Phase 3.

Share the treasure

For kindred spirits who harbor the same appreciation for nature and fine living, Kawayan Cove is a place to see, breathe, feel. It is not just a piece of paradise but a treasure to share with loved ones and bequeath to the next generation.





TV CAMPAIGN of the Year, Coca-Cola's "Beat Game" by McCann-Erickson.

Best ads for 2004 win gold

60 ads from 10 agencies vied for the "Ad of the Year" awards

By Angel V. Guerrero
Contributor

LEADING advertising firm McCann-Erickson Philippines was a big winner in the annual "Ad of the Year" awards of the Creative Guild of the Philippines with its two Golds.

Chosen from 60 ads produced by 10 advertising agencies, McCann won a Gold for "Beat Game," an upbeat and catchy television campaign for Coca-Cola, which was awarded Campaign of the Year for Television.

The five versions of the campaign were shot by Unitel's in-house director, Sid Maderazo.

McCann's second Gold went to the Biogesic "Graduation" print ad for United Laboratories, which was awarded Print Ad of the Year. The simply executed print ad also won a craft award for Best Copy.

The one-liner copy, written by McCann's copywriter, Je De Asas, reads: "*Tapos na ang sakit ng ulo* (The headache is gone)."

The winning ad had all the ingredients: simple copy, clear concept, single visual, lots of white space and a small logo.

The agency also received a Silver for Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Cannes Lions" print campaign "Claws/Fangs/Tail," and a Silver in Television for the Sony "Reinforcement" TV spot.

Boy Yniguez won the Best in Cinematography award for the Sony TV commercial.

BBDO Guerrero Ortega equaled McCann's two Gold wins by getting a Print Campaign of the Year award for its Asian regional FedEx print campaign, "Rain/Ledge/Escalator."

This campaign also won for the agency a finalist certificate in last year's Cannes Lions,

A SIMPLE idea, simply executed. The tactical Biogesic "Graduation" ad by McCann-Erickson is named Print Ad of the Year.

and a Certificate at the Asian Advertising Awards.

BBDO's second Gold went to its Childhope print ad "Bed," which was part of the advocacy campaign to help take thousands of homeless Filipino children off the streets.

The ad won the DIWA (public service category) Print Ad of the Year Award, and brought home a Bronze at the Asia-Pacific Adfest in Thailand.

Hauling the most medals with six awards—five Silvers, one Bronze—was TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno.

Melvin Mangada's creative team garnered awards across the medium: a silver in the TV Campaign of the Year category for Cinemanila's TV spots, "Almodovar/Godard/Kitano" ("Kitano" won a Bronze at the Asia-Pacific Adfest. The "Godard" version made finalist); a Silver in the Print Campaign of the Year category for Adidas "Sculpture/Pat/Relief"; a Bronze for the Boysen "Pyramid" print ad; and a DIWA Silver and Bronze in Radio for DYRU-Cebu and Mothers for Peace, respectively.

TBWA's TV spot for Oxygen, entitled "Underground," was cited for Best Cinematography, with Australian director/cinematographer Franco Marinelli at the lens; and for Best Art Direction and Production Design.

Art directors on the job were Raian Geron and Billy Samson.

Judged the country's best single TV commercial was the Fita Biscuit "Fairy" TV spot from Lowe Philippines.

This humorous spot even has a moral lesson—give half a biscuit to a stranger (who later turns into a fairy), and you literally get half the car that you wished for.

The Fita "Fairy" TV commercial also won for Lowe a Bronze at the Asia-Pacific Adfest in 2004.

Two DIWA Golds went to JimenezBasic for the moving Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc. "Charades" TV commercial, and for the same client, a Gold for the "Name Calling" radio commercial.

Positively received was the Bronze win for Procter & Gamble's detergent brand, Mr. Clean, with the "Mileage" TV campaign by Hemisphere Leo-Burnett.

Burnett also bagged the Radio Campaign of the Year Award, for the Wireless Service Asia "March Million" campaign "Rodel/Bati/Hahe."

JWT's only win, a Gold at that, was for the Shell Petroleum's Shell Rimula "Trabajo" radio commercial, the Radio Ad of the Year.

One of the country's biggest ad spenders, Smart Communications, managed to win one creative award in the competition.

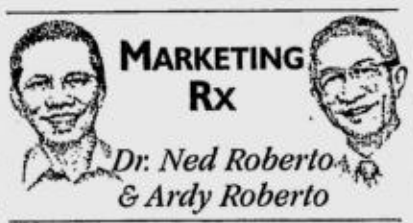
The "Three Kings" print ad for Smart Kid by BBDO Guerrero Ortega picked up a Bronze. Globe was absent this year, but has had its fair share of awards in previous competitions.

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Tony Gloria, founder of the country's multi-awarded production house, Unitel Productions. He expanded into the realm of movie production and distribution of Filipino films worldwide, such as the highly acclaimed "Crying Ladies."

The Hall of Fame, an honor given to advertising creatives who have won five Ad of the Year Awards and at least three international awards, went to Ompong Remigio, Creative Director of Campaigns & Grey, and to David Guerrero, chair & chief creative officer of BBDO Guerrero Ortega.

Paying tribute to Ompong Remigio was Sheila Dela Cuesta, now working in Leo-Burnett Singapore, with a visual interpretation of Remigio's award-winning poem for children, "Papel Del Liha."

How do I get marketing and sales to work in sync?



QUESTION: I'm the new general manager of a medium-sized service company that succeeded as a sales-driven organization in its first 14 years. But for the past five years, sales have been falling up to 15 percent a year.

I'm a lawyer by profession and training. When I was hired, my chair told me that I needed a marketing man to reverse the sales trend. The company never had a marketing department. So I created one, and got a marketing head. He has been on the job for more than a year now.

Sales haven't shown any sign of reversing or stopping its fall. Then I found the problem. My sales head and marketing head weren't talking to each other! They don't meet and don't know each one's plan. My sales and marketing departments can't seem to be able to work in sync. How can I get these two heads to do so?

Answer: This sounds like a special case of internal marketing.

We explained and diagnosed a broader case of internal marketing in our May 21, 2004 column. That case was about the marketing department being in sync with the company's other departments providing marketing with non-marketing support, like manufacturing and finance.

We thought yours was a "special case" because it's about marketing being in sync with sales, which is a marketing function and tool.

Let's start our diagnosis with the context of your case. Your marketing department is the Johnny-come-lately in your organization. Before, during the long good years, and the recent bad, it was sales-driven.

Operationally, that meant that even marketing, e.g., market analysis and planning, was with sales.

When you created a marketing department, you effectively unbundled whatever marketing your sales was doing, and handed that over to your new marketing department.

We used to have a client in B2B marketing that was similarly situated. One of the things given to marketing was "events management." The sales department used to do this to generate new customer leads and prospects. When marketing took over and generated a good list of over 800 new prospects, it handed this over to sales. At the end of the selling period, the sales head reported a measly sales productivity of 7 percent from the list.

The answer

When we studied the problem, we found among other things that the sales team was hesitant to give its best effort to pursue the prospects. Why?

Here's a frank answer from one of the district sales managers: "If we had pushed and did a good job, it's marketing that would look good. It's marketing's prospect list. Marketing would look good and we'd look bad because lately, we've not been meeting our quota."

If this sense of perceived loss of power and uncertainty about performance recognition also prevails in the relationship between your marketing and sales, then it's a wake-up call. Understand and look into the tense situation. Your leadership is needed.

A most likely reason why there is a perceived loss of power among sales people is that you've taken away a good number of marketing activities that sales used to do.

Typically, this transfer of functions also entails a cut in the sales budget. If the compensation and reward system is also negatively affected, no matter how "slightly," then it makes for the Brutus cut, "the deepest cut of all," if taken together with the budget cut.

Define roles clearly

The sense of uncertainty about performance recognition usually comes from the absence of a clear set of role definitions for the marketing and sales departments.

Transferring activities and functions does not have the reassuring words of a clear role definition and job description. Announcing that, "from now on, you now do these" or "you don't do these anymore" is not defining their job and role.

To answer the perceived "power loss," restore the balance of power at once. At this initial stage in the sales and marketing relationship, you may want to reassure sales that the company continues to be sales-driven. The sales department stays as "king."

At the same time, you may also call marketing not as the marketing department but the marketing services department, which provides sales the necessary market and sales analysis data and support.

It is when sales finally realizes and admits how critical the contribution is of the marketing services department, that you can then announce the reversal of the hierarchy.

These decisions will naturally affect the wording of your role definition and job description documents. But let us first concentrate on the essential elements.

With clients, we often liken the relationship between marketing and sales to the military set-up.

Marketing consists of the generals and their staff in charge of planning and thinking strategies. Sales consists of the officers and soldiers putting strategy into action, and doing the actual battle.

This means that logically, sales should be reporting to marketing, since it is marketing that's in charge of strategy.

As we all know, practice departs from this theory.

Typically, the sales department headed by a sales director works independently of the marketing department, headed by a marketing director. Each has its own plan and asks you or your board for its own budget.

When the sales force is a large one, the sales budget will far exceed the marketing budget. Even when it is small, the sales budget will usually be larger than marketing's.

Historically speaking, the marketing department was a latecomer in business. So most companies were like yours, sales-driven.

In fact, in the 1950's, marketing was the business buzzword and most thought of it as a sexier name to call selling.

Thus, marketing has always been a smaller department versus sales. It was set up for marketing services. It serviced the sales force in customer prospecting, pre-qualifying prospects, etc.

The ideal set-up for the two departments is taken from the military.

The generals, assisted by their staff and intelligence, craft (as should the marketing people) the attack or defense strategy.

Then they call in the captains and their assistants (in your case the equivalent of your salespeople), explain the strategy to them, and then discuss implementation in terms of primary battle plan and contingency plans.

This is basically how marketing and sales should work together and be, as you say, in sync.

Thus, the role of marketing is to analyze the market and the consumer, and identify sales opportunities and develop programs to drum up market demand in the process.

All these should be clearly spelled out in the marketing plan.

In turn, the role of sales is to prepare its own programs to take advantage of the identified opportunities, and turn the generated market demand into trade customer and final consumer purchases.

All these should also be clearly spelled out in the sales plan.

"Being in sync" requires what generals and the frontline officers do in the military, namely, exchange plans and in the end, bring synergy into the combined plan.

Marketing must check the viability of its marketing plan with sales. It must discuss with sales what would be required in terms of resources and money.

The same goes for sales.

Marketing and sales serving each other

We started answering your question by saying that it looks like yours is a special case of internal marketing. We hope you would have also appreciated that you have to get your marketing department to accept sales as its internal customer for its market analysis and strategy.

It is marketing's responsibility to find out the "needs" of sales, and satisfy and delight those needs of this customer.

Sales, on the other hand, must accept marketing as its internal customer for the cost effectiveness of the sales plan. It is sales' responsibility to find out marketing's own "needs," and do everything to satisfy and delight those needs.

In the end, it is your leadership that is needed to execute these prescriptions.

If your two department heads are not talking to each other, you have to look at what you, the 'king', are doing—or not doing.

If it took you more than a year to find out that your two key are not communicating, that most likely means that you have not been talking to them as well. You need to consistently coach and talk to these two key people.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

MICROFINANCE

Tapping into women's hidden business talents

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HEIDI Ragas proudly displays her baked native delicacies. (Right) Heidi's employees are hard at work.

IT DOES not take a lot of money to bring out the hidden entrepreneur in Filipino women who need economic power the most.

For the Cebu Micro-Enterprise Development Foundation Inc., a micro-finance institution formed and organized by the Roman Aboitiz Foundation Inc., it takes as little as P3,000.

This is the initial amount lent without collateral by CMEDFI to poor women interested in going into small businesses, such as trading clothes and tending a convenience store.

The loan is paid over six months at a monthly interest rate of 3.25 percent, which is far less than the 5-20 percent monthly rate charged by loan sharks preying on poor people with no access to regular credit facilities.

Heidi Ragas, 48, who lives in a remote barangay in Lilo-an, Cebu, a place that is hardly visited by four-wheel vehicles, knows well how P3,000 can change a person's life.

Ragas used to spend her days doing nothing but take care of her mother. She relied solely on the money sent by her sister working in the United States. But she and her sister had a falling out, and she was forced to fend for herself.

In 2003, her neighbor told her that CMEDFI people were going around town looking for people interested to borrow money to start a business. No collateral was required, and no tedious paperwork.

Thinking she had nothing better to do, she went over to the CMEDFI office in her town, along with some of her neighbors, and took out a loan.

A taste of business

"I first used the money to raise chickens. We were taught to honor our obligations so I made it a point to pay. In six months, I paid back the loan and I also earned a little from raising native chickens," she said in Filipino.

Once Ragas got the taste of earning her own money, she was hooked. She borrowed again and, this time, she got P10,000. When the second loan was fully paid, she borrowed another P15,000, and then P20,000.

Encouraged by her increasing knowledge in business, she took over a bakery that her sister put up in 2002.

"I used the loan from CMEDFI to buy my sister's share in the bakery. Now, it's all mine," Ragas said.

She also made it bigger. Her store now sells six different native delicacies, such as *rosquillos, galletas, salvarro* and butter toast, which are sold by traders in Lilo-an and neighboring towns in Cebu.

Her latest loan worth P49,000 was used to complete her takeover of the bakery. Once that loan is paid in September, she plans to expand her bakery and increase production.

"I can dream now. I did not have that luxury before," she said.

Ragas' story is duplicated by many of the more than 7,400 women in six cities and 29 municipalities of Cebu that have benefited from the CMEDFI program in the past seven years.

CMEDFI executive director Cauchie G. Castaño said the program was designed specifically for women as they are in need of economic empowerment.

Support system

"Women also have the patience to attend meetings, and their success is shared by the entire family. From unproductive members of society, they are transformed through this microfinance program," Castaño said.

It's not just the loan that the women are getting.

They are taught to save, as they are required to deposit a minimum of P50 a week to benefit from the program. They also pay P20 a week for hospital and insurance benefits.

Women are also given training on leadership, value formation, skills and enterprise development. They even read the Bible and play games together to build camaraderie.

Castaño said the women were organized in groups of about 20. A chair is elected and the group meets regularly to draw inspiration and learn from each other.

While members are not required to shoulder the loan of a group member in case of default, the members provide a strong support system to encourage their peers to update their payments. This system must be working, as more than 90 percent of the members pay their debts religiously.

Expanding reach

CMEDFI has disbursed some P164.5 million in loans as of March 31 this year. It has outstanding loan portfolio of P22.7 million.

CMEDFI figures showed that 81 percent of the beneficiaries are in rural areas, with 20 percent coming from the cities of Toledo, Talisay, Danao, Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu.

Close to 90 percent of the women-clients are married, with the rest either single, widowed or separated. A little more than half of the clients are below 40 years old.

The data showed that almost seven of the 10 clients used their loans from CMEDFI to engage in the selling/trading industry, about two are in production of products such as stuffed toys, home décor, baked food, accessories.

The others are in the service industry, such as wood lamination, vulcanizing, dressmaking, or are into livestock raising.

Castaño said plans were underway to expand the program to cover the Bantayan and Camotes islands, and increase the membership base to 9,000 by the end of the year.

As for Ragas, she is busy making her bigger dreams come true.

The house that barquillos built

From page B2-4

tures, it fell on Rowena's hands to continue the tradition of selling the Deocampo's products.

Rowena is in charge of production and marketing. Alvin takes care of personnel and collection. They make sure that the quality of the *pasalubong* products is maintained.

They closely supervise the bakers, making sure that they learn the techniques and appreciate the products.

Extra care was given to making barquillos, so that the taste remains faithful to the ones they had more than a hundred years ago.

Deocampo's *pasalubong* products are available in many grocery stores in Iloilo as well as in major cities all over the country. Cities in Mindanao carry the Deocampo's products. They are also found at Viosil's Arcade, M.H. del Pilar, Street, Molo, and at Sta. Isabel Street, Jaro, the original home.

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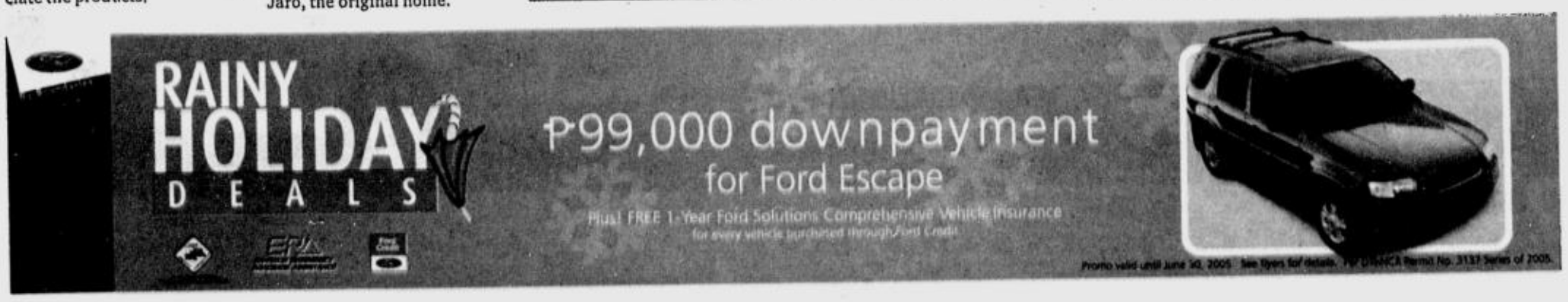
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BUSINESS*Friday*

Cashing in on Ilocos Norte's place on the map

By Eric A. Olona

GEOGRAPHY has done for Ilocos Norte what roadshows and other efforts to drum up business elsewhere in the country could not.

Ilocos Norte lies at the northwestern tip of the island of Luzon—a hop, skip and a jump from Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland China.

Shortly after the People's Republic of China shed its reclusive communist mantle in the mid-1990s and replaced it with its tightly reined version of capitalism, there emerged a variety of being in Chinese society that had not been seen for quite a while—the middle class.

In trickles, visitors with a bit of cash began to fly in from the mainland to Laoag for some R&R.

By the turn of the millennium, they were coming in droves.

At present, hundreds of tourists fly into Laoag every month from China and other parts of Asia on chartered flights.

According to Ilocos residents, it takes less time to fly from Laoag to Kaoshiung (40 minutes) than it is to fly from Laoag to Manila (50 minutes).

One can catch a flight from Laoag to Hong Kong (six times a week), Guangzhou (three times a week), Shanghai (three times a week) and Kaoshiung (three times a week).

Of course, there are domestic flights to Manila (five times a week) and Clark (twice a week).

Local officials said the provincial government is close to sealing a deal with China that would pave the way for 12 regular flights from the mainland to Laoag airport.

The airport, which has been tastefully spruced up to please the tourist eye, is now strewn with signs in Chinese and interesting souvenirs for visitors to grab.

CHINESE tourists at the century-old church in laoag

SPANISH delegates of the Northern Summit grab souvenirs

Officials have also put up an Ilocos Norte Tourism, Trade & Investment Center, which serves as an information hub for tourists and traders keen on doing business in the province.

Trade consulate

The local government is also expecting China to open a trade consulate in the province.

"If the Chinese were to open a consulate here, that could only mean that they are taking Ilocos Norte seriously," according to Jorge Judan, commercial attaché currently based in Beijing and Shanghai.

The signing of a memorandum of agreement that would pave the way for the opening of a Chinese consulate in Ilocos Norte, was taken up during the recent visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to the Philippines.

"We have been getting a lot of support from the Chinese government," said Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. "And we are truly grateful for that."

Provincial officials recently announced that the local government had to temporarily withdraw from the race to draw in visitors and investors to the province.

They said that they had been so successful at drawing in business that they needed to take a step back and assess the infrastructure in the province.

Ilocos Norte already has a foothold in the Chinese market. But the governor was not worried that taking a step back from attracting investments to the province would mean the loss of the precious foothold.

"Right now, we only have one 5-star hotel [Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel], six 3-star hotels and a bunch of pension houses scattered all over the province, but it is still not enough," Marcos said. "It's very difficult to book a hotel room here during Chinese New Year, Holy Week and the other long holidays. Unfortunately, we just can't meet the demand."

The infrastructure and hotel accommodations, which once proved adequate for a burgeoning province's need, now appears to be bursting at the seams.

And although Ilocos Norte has one of the best road networks in the country, officials fear that that may not be enough.

Trade convention

Recently, the provincial government sponsored a three-day convention for investors. Officials hoped to generate investments that will go to hotel and resort development as well as fund the necessary infrastructure projects.

The "Northern Summit 2005," which was held last May, also laid the foundation for micro and small entrepreneurs to learn more about the numerous investment opportunities available in Ilocos Norte.

Representatives from both the government and local business sector were on hand to answer questions about doing business in the province, as well as taxation, government support, incentives for investors and licensing.

Among the resources speakers were Dr. Bernardo Villegas of the University of Asia & the Pacific, engineer Raul Hernandez of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Eric Cerrudo of the Government Service and Insurance System, and Judan, who discussed the special relationship between the Philippines and China.

Samie Lim, PCCI vice president for tourism, retailing and franchising, was also invited to discuss how best to develop tourism in the area.

On the map, Ilocos Norte may be far from Manila's orbit. But its place on the beaten track is where international commerce and tourism collide.

The house that barquillos built

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Many places in Iloilo have more than a century-old "pasalubong" businesses that have remained both as a family enterprise and a source of pride.

These businesses have many features in common, such as a connection to religion and tightly guarded heirloom recipes. These businesses have always been popular, but more so recently with the growing nostalgia for things past.

Deocampo's Barquillos is one of these companies. It's a business that has been passed through generations of proud family members.

"Barquillos" are layers of wafers rolled to resemble tiny tubes. Their appeal is in their slenderness and crispiness—the melt-in-the-mouth kind.

Made of flour, butter, milk, sugar and eggs, barquillos are a perfect accompaniment to ice cream. But they are also best eaten alone, with its sound bringing good memories.

There are other brands of barquillos in Iloilo, each claiming its own merit. But Deocampo's version is different. Its taste is regal and does not crack under slight pressure.

The barquillos of Deocampo's trace their origins to the communion wafer.

ROWENA and her daughters carry on the Deocampo tradition.

PHOTOS BY DIOSA LABISTE

The family, which lived near the famous Jaro Church, was commissioned to make communion wafers in 1898. But Emilia Gonzalez Deocampo decided to expand her bakery products, experimenting with the usual ingredients.

She started making bread that was shaped like communion wafer, but with filling. Later, she spread two round wafers on hot tin platters and when cooked, rolled them on a stick to take on the shape of "cigarillos."

That was how barquillos came to be.

Her children loved the new preparation. Eventually, friends and relatives liked them so much that orders came pouring in. Emilia's barquillos became a hit.

Element of luxury

Emilia's son, Jose, continued the barquillos business. Jose, married to Bessie Girado, with whom he has nine children, tried to make the business grow.

From small neighborhood orders, the barquillos orders started coming from the rich families in Jaro. Apparently, barquillos and the Jaro rich go together.

Barquillos have an element of luxury, food items that take many hands to prepare, but are quickly eaten. They are eaten in a leisurely mood; each bite and morsel must be savored.

DEOCAMPO'S delights

Thus, barquillos were transformed from a neighborhood delight to a special treat for honored guests during fiestas and special occasions. Barquillos were also a favored going-away gift for favorite relatives and politicians.

The member of the third generation of Deocampos who continued the business is Franklin, who is married to Alicia Tiolo.

But Franklin died early and running the business was left to his wife.

Their daughter, Rowena, was only 10 when her father died. She has several aunts and uncles who were also taught to run barquillos business, but it was her mother, Alicia, who had the drive to continue it.

With three children to send to school, her mother worked hard and eventually decided to go to Manila to try her luck there, bringing along her barquillos recipes. Deocampo's barquillos eventually found its way into grocery stores, restaurants and hotels in Manila.

Business was not bad in Manila, and from what she earned, Alicia was able to send her three children to school. But while Alicia was doing well in Manila, she wanted to return home and rebuild the business in the place where it all started.

In 1989, she and her children, Raquel, Rodel and Rowena, decided to found a bakeshop on the original location of Deocampo's, at 46 Sta. Isabel, Jaro. Slowly, they regained the old glory of their pasalubong business.

More yummy treats

From barquillos, Deocampo's offered "mamon tostado" [toasted round cake], "pinasugbo" [banana fritters], "piaya" [molasses-filled flat rice cake], "biscocho" [hard toasted bread], three varieties of sugarless biscuits ["paborita," "pulceras" and "kinihad"], the sweet cookies "pasencia" and "ugoy-ugoy," meringue, and butter scotch.

These same products are also sold by other bakers and pasalubong centers. But Deocampo's products are different in terms of taste, quality and appearance.

"Paborita" and "pulceras," the least noticed of pasalubong items, were given enough attention in Deocampo's bakeshop. They are easy to bite into and flavorful. They are also reasonably priced.

"Mamon tostado" became another star of the Deocampo's bakery. Competitors imitated it, but Rowena said they never came close.

When more orders kept coming in, Rowena, who is married to Alvin Tan, decided to quit her job in a bank. Later she convinced her husband, also a bank employee, to do the same.

"I told him that, look, other people are starting their own businesses but here we are, we have our own, we might as well make it grow," said Rowena.

Quality control

When her sister, Raquel, and brother, Rodel, left for the United States to seek greener pas-

THE HOUSE/ B2-3

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YASMINE

Fashionable provocation

Agent Provocateur, the British brand whose overt mission it was to take lingerie from smutty to stylish, has invaded Hong Kong

By Kitty Go
Contributor

THERE was never a time in my career when straight male friends volunteered to go with me to a fashion event. But that changed with the recent launch of British underwear brand Agent Provocateur (A-P) by Lane Crawford in Hong Kong. Suddenly, every straight man wanted an invitation to this fashion event.

To many a straight banker from Central, the highlight of the evening surely was not the presence of owners Joe Corre and Serena Rees. It wasn't even the burlesque-style lingerie fashion show at Western Market, which was transformed into a Victorian bordello complete with peep-show voyeur windows.

The draw, at least for the men, was the two-part strip show by international burlesque artist and Marc Jacobs muse, Dita Von Teese (aka Mrs. Marilyn Manson).

Of course, the following day (day one of business for A-P at Lane Crawford's IFC Center flagship) there was a run on corsets and polka-dot bra and knicker sets. Obviously, women (or their lovers) had been inspired by Dita's cinched waistline and the underwear set featured on billboards that dominated the city.

The line started in 1994 with a shop in Soho, London. For 10 years, the owners have been selling what they want and, needless to say, marketing the concept the way they want, from an advertising debut at an adult theatre, catalogues, events and a website—creating as much buzz in public as their underwear does in private.

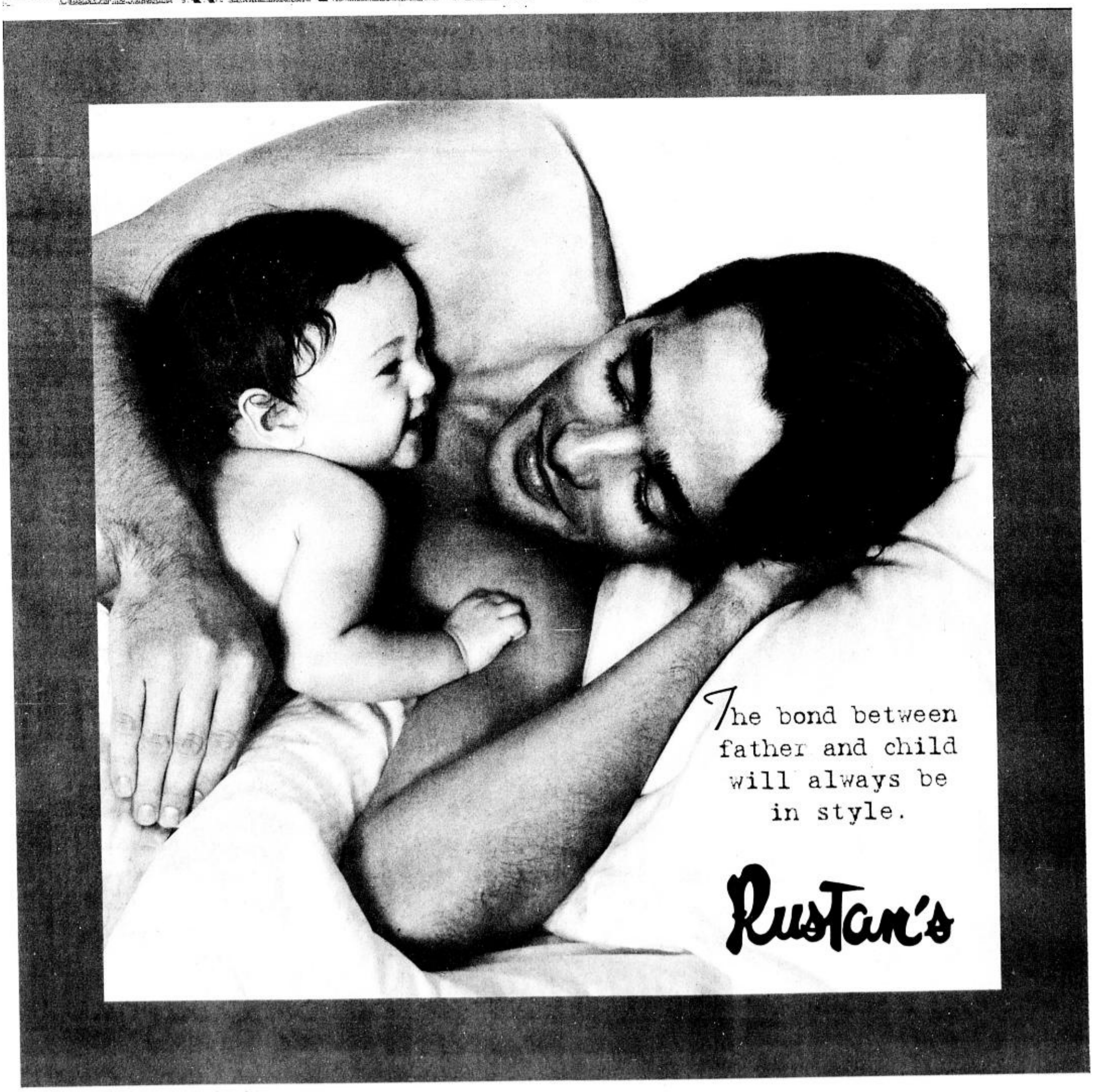
The brand that has taken lingerie from smutty to stylish now has 15 shops, including outlets in Dubai, New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Moscow. Each boutique is individually decorated but never veers from the ambiance of part boudoir and part jewel box.

The HK shop is "the anchor" of a 6,000-sq.-ft. lingerie department, the largest for luxury lingerie in Asia that also carries La Perla, Hanro, Marni, Prada, Cosabella, Elle McPherson and Donna Karan.

Sarah Rutson, fashion director of Lane Crawford, explains the reason behind bringing in A-P: "We needed one big brand with excitement and sex appeal that is so important, and AP was that one."

Joe Corre (son of Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren) and his wife

FASHIONABLE/ C2



SUZI

At first thought of as a gimmick, A-P has turned intimate apparel into a fun, fashion statement

STELLA

Fashionable provocation

From page C1

Serena Rees originally started out wanting to open a shop selling things they loved, but found only vintage clothing and stocks of underwear from World War II. They decided to recreate these romantic '40s and '50s styles and gradually developed Agent Provocateur.

That was then, when people thought it was a gimmick. Today A-P is credited for changing the way the world looks at lingerie from its traditional idea as a foundation to a fun, fashion statement. Although the company does not discuss its customers and even has VIP dressing rooms in its Pont Street Store in London, the media have reported celebrities such as Victoria Beckham, JK Rowling, Sadie Frost and Kylie Minogue patronizing the shops. (The last two both have lingerie lines.)

Corre and Rees admitted to the INQUIRER that they hadn't even been to HK before they signed the contract with Lane Crawford. They simply thought that, just like when they opened their LA shop, it was the right time and they had the right partners.

The fashion media classifies A-P more as a fashion brand than a lingerie brand. Do you feel the same way?

JC: It's both, really. One of the most interesting things that happened is we made that link of joining fashion with lingerie and starting this movement. What's interesting is, when fashion brands do lingerie they find it difficult because they think it's an easy thing to do. First, fashion brands don't want the size range. They only want small-medium-large. We do 24 sizes in a bra—we are very specialist and serious. So we do lots of sizes, lots of shapes for different people. Although we are very fashionable, we are very specialist as well.

(A-P, however, runs deliveries like a fashion house with five groups delivered every month and heavier deliveries on peak months.)

Where do you get ideas?

JC: Influence from historical things, but the fabric always inspires. It depends. From art, sculpture, and once you get into it you build up your skill.

Why haven't you been knocked off successfully?

SR: Because the others haven't got their own ideas. They take a little of us, something else and another and because they choose three things, they think they can come out with something amazing. It doesn't make sense and has no reason.

JC: People want something authentic. They have a different idea of what makes them feel sexy, attractive or feel good, so you design but you look at what looks good on other people, too.

You say you want to do and sell what you like. At what point in your business will you give up the purity of design and cater to a mass consumer demand to have faster and stronger growth? Or is commercialism not what you want?

JC: There are certain rules that we have in our business, and one of them is we don't sell things we don't personally like. Even if we think this particular look is good for a blonde, etc... it's really if we really like it for what it is. We are about our consumers and we care about people to have an authentic, exciting and interesting experience in our stores. We want them to leave with the feeling that something works for them, that they are very pleased with their purchase. We don't want to be dictated to by consumers so we have to like them ourselves... (We can still grow the brand) with other products—fragrances, CDs, books, stationery, homeware, hosiery, shoes, jewelry. The jury's out and we've made that step and that is an encouraging feature.

For more, log on to www.agentprovocateur.com. and www.lanecrawford.com.

E-mail the author at kittygopdi@yahoo.com

PARFUM

INTERNATIONAL burlesque artist and Marc Jacobs muse Dita Von Teese regaled the HK audience with a two-part strip show.

SECRET (wardrobe) agents Joseph Corre and Serena Rees

BELLA

KITTY

FIFI

Cool countdown

JUNIOR Triax Digital watch from Nike. "It's water-resistant and it can go down to 50 meters. That's cool!" says Manu.

ADVERTISING and media man Manu Sandejas, who is an adventurer, beach bum, outdoor addict, sleep expert and chill-out master, also makes time for boxing after a busy day at work.

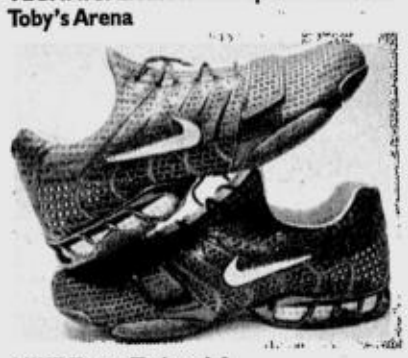
"There are no distractions—it's just me and my gloves and the trainer," he says. When his schedule permits, he boxes three times a week at Red Corner in Libis.

Manu recently went around The Podium to check out the different sports stores. Here are his winning picks.

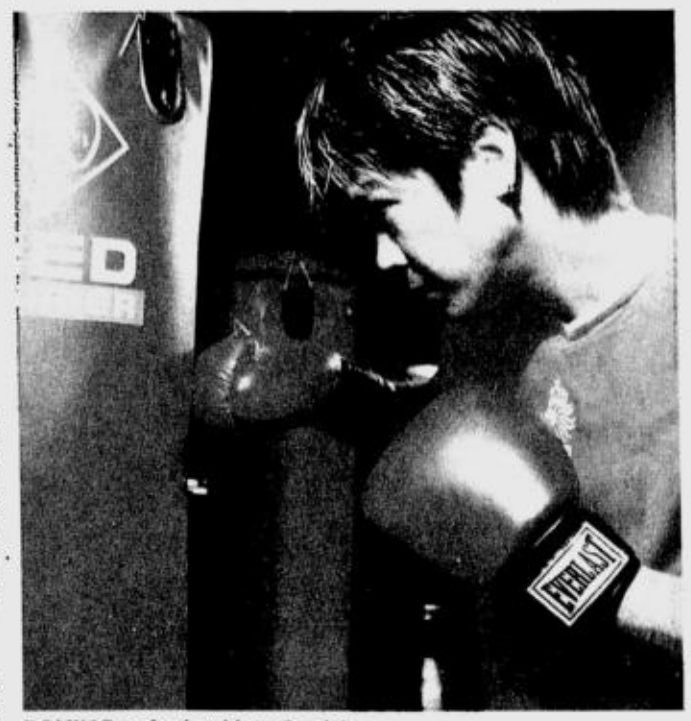
- Zoom Trainer LA and Shoe Bag from Nike
- TKO Boxing Gloves and Speed Ball from Toby's Arena
- Valeo Jump Rope from Toby's Arena
- Osim Extra Back Support Belt from Healthplus
- GNC Total Lean and Mega Men Dietary Supplement from Healthplus
- Oakley Duffel Bag from G Force

These cool sports stores and others, as well as Watsons and Healthplus, are all located at The Podium in Ortigas Center.

TECHNICAL Knock Out speed ball from Toby's Arena



NIKE Zoom Trainer LA



BOXING enthusiast Manu Sandejas

Fashionable sports watches

THE LATEST Fila watch collection features leather-strapped and chrome watches with simple and elegant designs that go well with the office dress code.

For the young and fashionable, there are the digital watches with thick straps. They are eye-catchers and conversation pieces.

Fila's sports watches have such features as stopwatch ability, lap counters, night light, water-resistant, adjustable straps and other conveniences.

FILA's digital sports watches

CELEBRITY KIDS
Joey Marquez's daughter Zia Andrea, Melanie Marquez's daughter Maxene, Jaclyn Jose's pretty teener Nicole Guck and Bembol Roco's twin sons, Dominic and Felix, were among the children of celebrities who modeled Guess' current collection at the recent Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards which was held at the NBC Tent.

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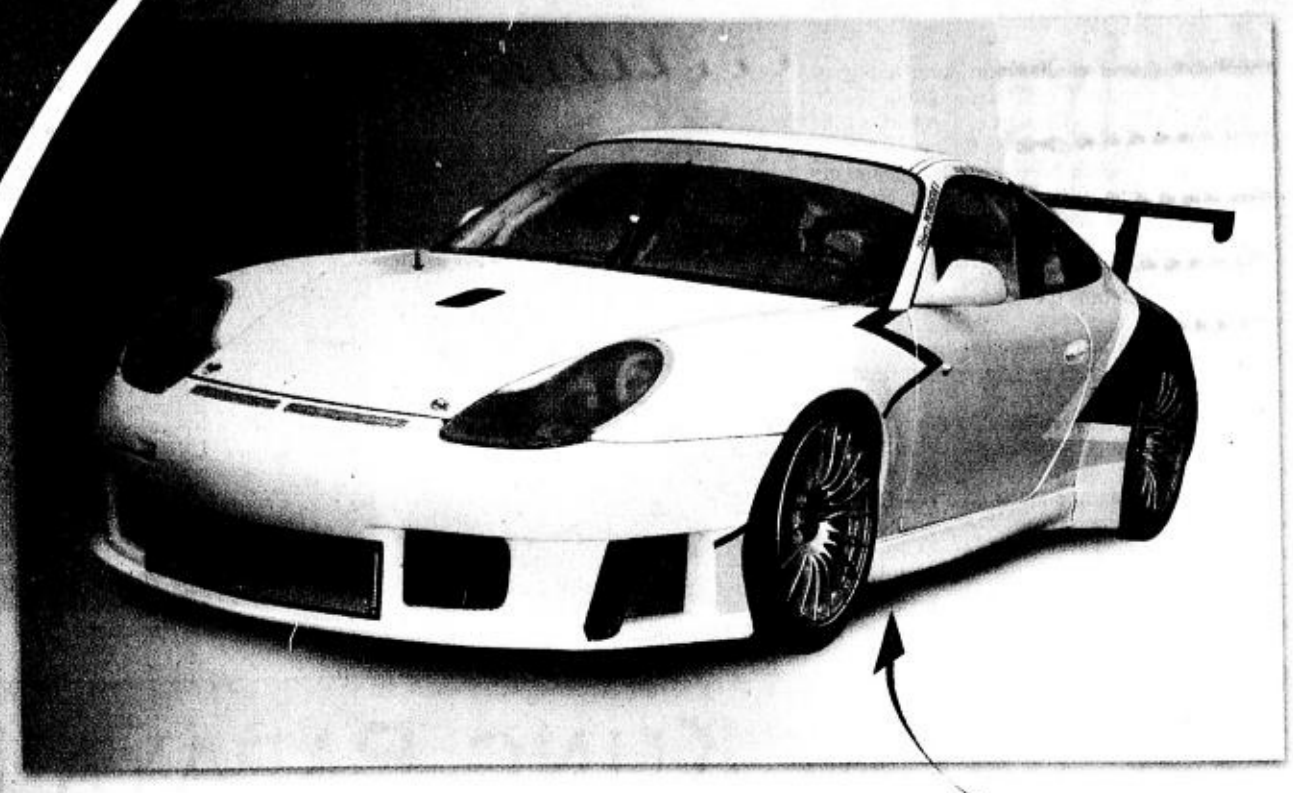

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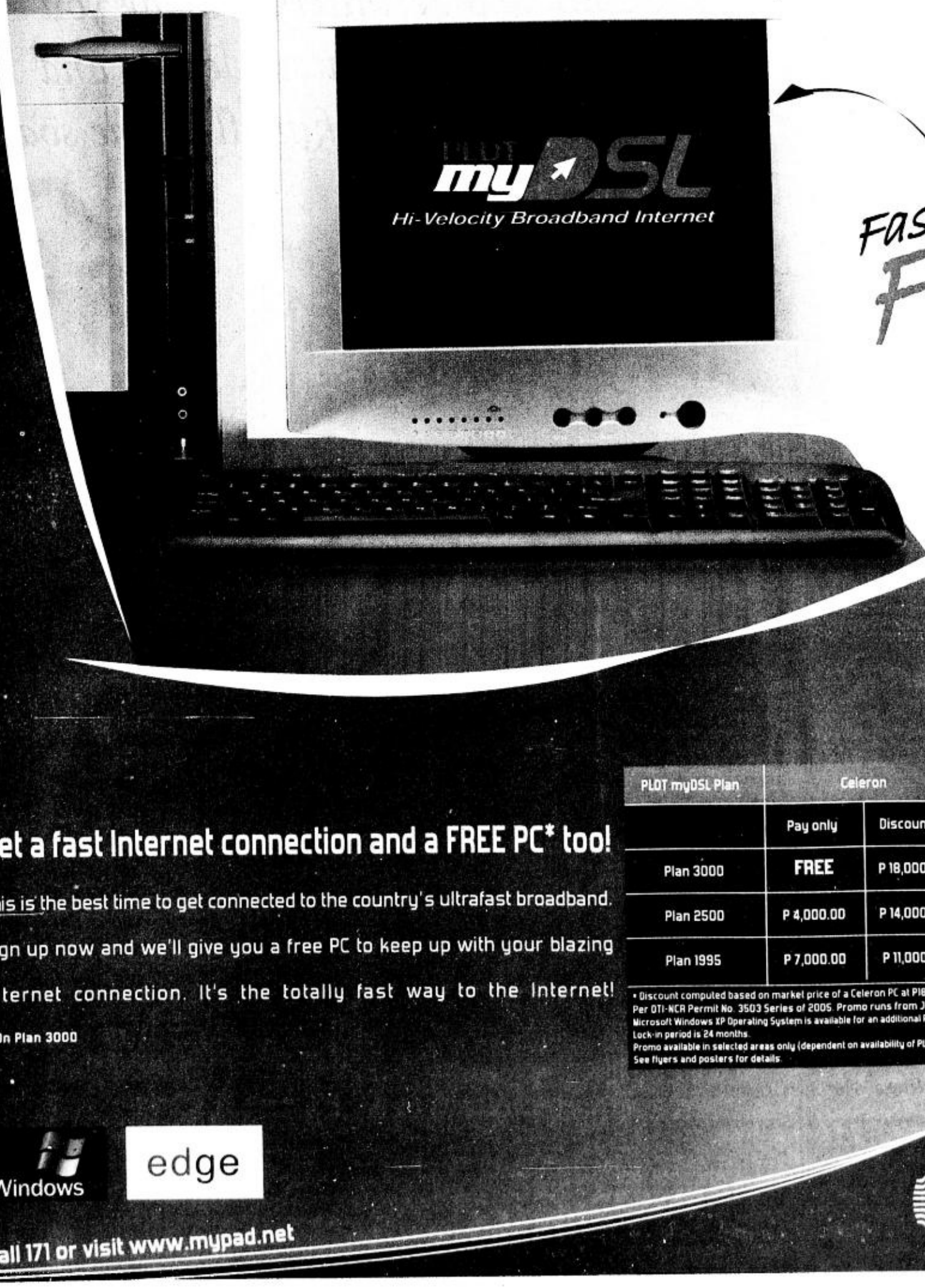

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PAPA'S BOY. Wendell Ramos gets a kiss from son Dedell.

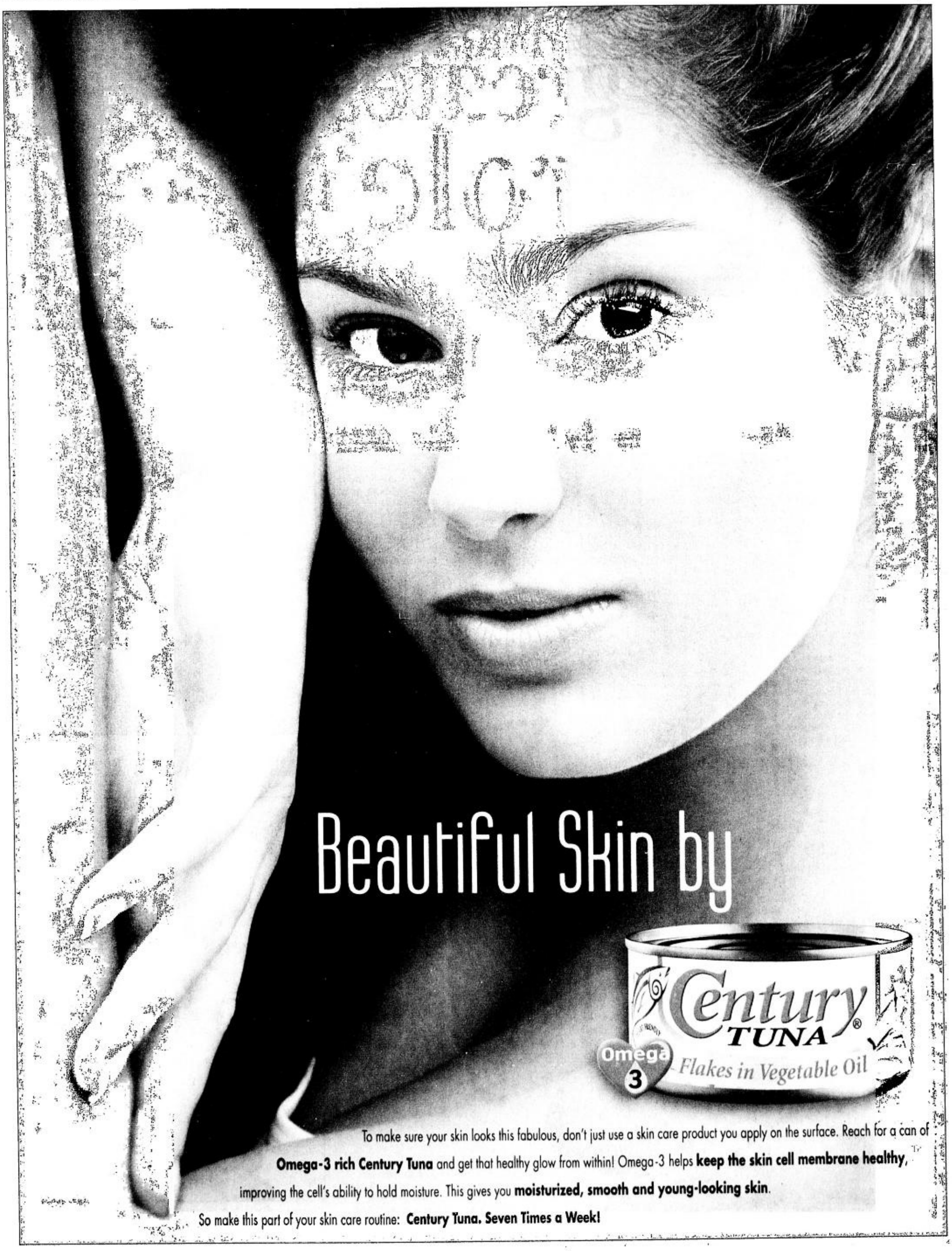
The greatest role of his life

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

Bench endorser and Urian awardee Wendell Ramos gets another trophy for the character he plays best—as single dad to his 5-year-old Dedell

WHEN it comes to their matinee idols, Filipinos can be quite possessive. Not only do they want 'em handsome, they also want 'em single. Once in a while, however, they're

THE GREATEST/ D2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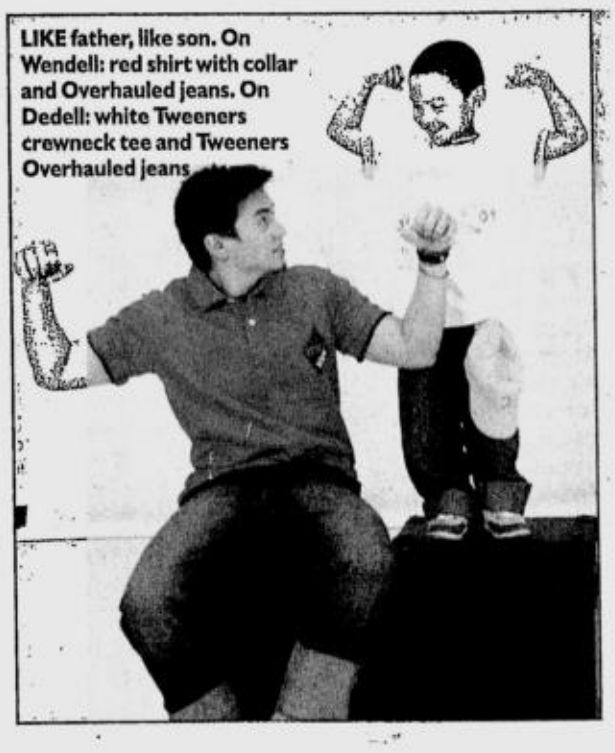


LIKE father, like son. On Wendell: red shirt with collar and Overhauled jeans. On Dedell: white Tweeners crewneck tee and Tweeners Overhauled jeans

The greatest role of his life

DADDY'S DAY OUT. On Wendell: black Bench shirt and Overhauled relaxed fit jeans. On Dedell: white rugby shirt over light-blue long- sleeved shirt and Little League cap

From page D1

willing to cut their object of fantasy some slack, as in the case of doe-eyed heartthrob Wendell Ramos.

Fresh from his victory the night before, the first-time Urian best supporting actor recently took time-out from his crazy show-biz schedule to star in this exclusive photo shoot for Lifestyle.

It would have been just another routine fashion spread, except that this time Wendell agreed to share the limelight for the first time with his equally handsome 5-year-old son and namesake.

Nicknamed Dedell, the precocious preschooler needed no coaxing from anyone, not even Wendell, as he jumped, kissed and hugged his dad and sparred with him in front of the camera. Changing from one set of clothes to the next seemed like second nature to him.

"He reminds me so much of myself when I was a kid," says the beaming dad. "But he's far more energetic and curious than I was. You know how kids are these days."

In the fickle world of show biz it is common for rising stars, both male and female, to hide their marital status from jealous fans. Wendell, 26, did no such thing. His marriage and having a son at 21 were public knowledge, he says. In fact, he adds, the entertainment press even covered his baby's baptism.

Wendell, who entered show biz at 17, was experiencing a lull in his career when he got hitched to Margarita Magdangal.

"People began to talk about my marriage and my son only after I was cast in 'Hubog' by director Joel Lamangan," says Wendell.

No turning back

There was no turning back for him after that crucial break. Through manager Douglas Quijano, he was able to clinch bigger and meatier TV and movie assignments, one of which was his award-winning role in "Sabel" opposite Judy Ann Santos. He's also a mainstay on "Darna," "Bubble Gang" and "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," all aired on GMA 7.

"If you ask me what my dream role is, I think I've done it," he says. "In many ways, the character I played in "Sabel" was very much like me in real life—quiet but with a lot of angst bottled up inside. I guess the critics saw a semblance of truth in my performance."

Thanks to delirious fans, who lustily cheered him on every time he came out with nothing but jock straps on at last year's successful Bench underwear show, he even became one of the brand's hottest image models. Yes, hotter than the likes of Richard Gomez, Marc Nelson and Jon Hall.

It seems Wendell's life has so far been a series of tradeoffs. He found his supposed partner in life when his show-biz career was going nowhere. But just when his career was beginning to pick up again, his marriage turned sour. The three-year union eventually ended in separation and later annulment.

"My former wife and I are on speaking terms. We've learned to look beyond ourselves and focus on our child," says Wendell.

Despite his young age, Dedell was sensitive enough to feel something was amiss between his parents.

"He was wondering why his mom and I live in different houses," says Wendell. "So I had to tell him the truth that we couldn't get along. I hope and I pray that he'd be able to understand the situation when he grows up."

Quality time

In the meantime, Wendell tries to make the most out of his precious spare time by spending it with Dedell. Most days father and son chill out at their Parañaque home playing games or go malling at the Alabang Town Center.

When Wendell sometimes finishes taping in the early hours of the morning, he drives Dedell to school instead of retiring to bed after a light breakfast.

"I'm not able to spend time with my son as much I want to," he says, "so I treasure every waking moment I spend with him."

As for Dedell following in his footsteps, Wendell is open to the idea. He doesn't mind if the boy appears in commercials. "Whatever he earns from doing commercials, I'll keep in his name for his education," he says.

But show biz has to wait. This dad doesn't want anything to get in the way of his son's studies. "There's no room for two movie stars in the family right now."

Single father? Sure. Stage father? For the moment, it's one role Wendell Ramos doesn't relish playing.

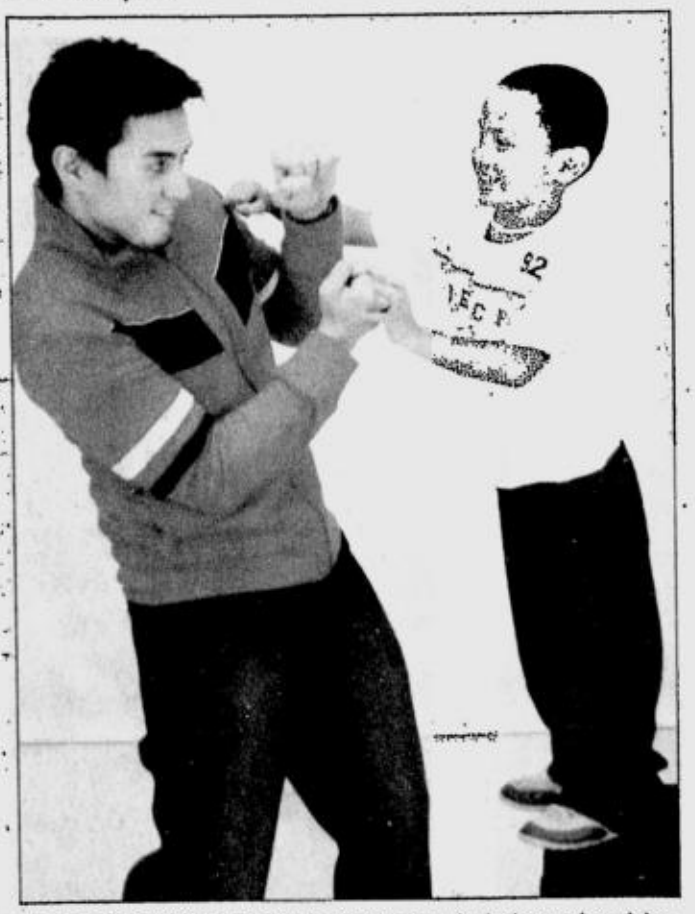
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

CLOTHES: BENCH
STYLING: NOEL MANAPAT
MAKEUP: KOALA
PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT: MARCO RUBI-CRUZ

HIGHER THAN HIGH. On Wendell: yellow shirt with collar and Overhauled denim jeans. On Dedell: Tweeners yellow buttoned shirt with collar and Overhauled denim jeans

TWO for the road

DAD'S MY IDOL. On Wendell: Bench short-sleeved, light-blue woven shirt and white Overhauled low-rise denim pants. On Dedell: Tweeners light-blue long-sleeved crewneck tee and Tweeners Overhauled jeans



SPARRING PARTNERS. On Wendell: red varsity jacket and straight-cut Overhauled jeans. On Dedell: Tweeners white crewneck tee and Tweeners Overhauled jeans

MAKATI executive Rouen Abel Raz enjoys browsing through the complete selection of Federal Hardware.

Hardware and furniture in one go

AT FEDERAL Hardware, Makati executive Rouen Abel Raz and his son Axle Raven were spotted shopping. Rouen headed to the tools section, his favorite section, where he showed young Axle some of the power tools that are useful around the house. Thanks to the store's complete selection of lights, tools, and other hardware items, Rouen was able to purchase all the things he needed.

Meanwhile, at the Federal Design Expo, the furniture and lifestyle center, well-known television director Bert de Leon, director of "Look Who's Talking" on ABC-5, was seen browsing the store's various furniture showcases with his sons, Jake and Niko.

Thanks to the store's wide selection of imported and locally made designer furniture and talented interior designers, Bert was able to check out a number of furniture showcases.

De Leon also checked the MFI showroom for a classy kitchen. MFI is Europe's No. 1 integrated kitchen retailer and manufacturer, featuring a wide range of elegant designs.

Federal Hardware and the Federal Design Expo are at 2250 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call Federal Hardware at 8931654/8931675 and Federal Design Expo at 8936553/8936589.

Challenge to dads' drilling skills

DIY dads take centerstage as Ace Hardware and Black and Decker celebrate Father's Day with the Black and Decker Challenge III.

The event brings together two of the most popular global brands—Ace Hardware, a haven for DIY enthusiasts, and Black and Decker, which is best known for its quality power tools and accessories, home improvement products, and technology-based systems.

To celebrate Father's Day, Ace and Black and Decker dare dads again to test their drilling skills with the Black and Decker Challenge III. The challenge, which combines the being-handy-is-fun spirit of the popular Home Improvement Show and the current reality show rage, is to be able to drill five screws into a piece of wood under 25 seconds.

Every P1,000 purchase of Black and Decker products at any Ace Hardware outlet entitles one to join the challenge. Preliminary rounds are ongoing until June 25 at selected Ace Hardware outlets.

Finalists will compete on June 26 at the Ace Hardware outlet in SM City Fairview. Winners will be given P15,000, P10,000 and P5,000 worth of Black and Decker tools.

Meanwhile, every P500 purchase at Ace Hardware this month will entitle one to a raffle coupon and have a chance to win one of 12 Bosh Powertool packages. The promotion is ongoing until June 30.

Contest gives away fab prizes to fathers

DADS all over the country will have a chance to win fabulous prizes in Robinsons Malls' "Shoot Dad Ball," a basketball shootout contest, inspired from one of the most popular sports in the country today. This is a special Father's Day treat on June 19 in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Place Cainta, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Robinsons Place Angeles.

Aside from prizes and giveaways the winners can bring home, Dad can also avail of two free services of their choice: hair trim, photo souvenir, massage or medical checkup (BP or eye checkup). Call 6836355 or 6836100 locals 791 and 792.

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Dali! Na-a si Jerry in Cebu.
July 15, 2005 3pm.
Pacific Grand Ballroom, Waterfront Hotel, Lahug Cebu
Mechanics:
1. For every purchase of two (2) shirts from the Jerry Yan Tee Collection, customer gets one (1) JERRY Photo Book and one (1) Jerry in Cebu Event Card for FREE.
2. The Card shall serve as pass to the Jerry in Cebu Event on July 15, 2005 3 PM at the Pacific Grand Ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu.
3. Promo period: June 10 - July 15, 2005. Valid in selected Bench/Iberbench boutiques in Metro Manila and Visayas areas only.
4. Credit card and gift cheque purchases are valid.
www.benchtm.com

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ON JP: Flirt; on AT: Osh Kosh

ON JP: Playboy; on Aly: Cinderella Babies

Car racer's passion for his kids

A VETERAN in car racing at 30, JP Tuason is probably too skilled to commit big mistakes in racing. But it doesn't mean that he never gets distracted by his kids. In fact, he's a dedicated dad to Jean Arthur Tuason (aka AT), five, and five-month-old daughter Jean Alysha, or Aly.

His passion for his kids was evident when JP took a little time off from the track and paid favorite clothing shop Cinderella a visit. It was nothing short of a delightful family affair as daddy unleashed his lady-killer looks in Flirt, Playboy, and Pierre Cardin clothes, while AT and Aly had no problems in their Oshkosh arid Cinderella Babies get-ups.

No, life is not all cars and speed for this family man. A day spent with the kids is just as rewarding as standing on the winner's podium.

ON JP: Flirt; on Aly: Osh Kosh

ON JP: Pierre Cardin; on Aly: Cinderella Babies; on AT: Osh Kosh

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Grooming, according to Queer Eye's Kyan Douglas /H1

LIFESTYLE

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Why our fashion week becomes 'fashion weak'

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

OVER the long weekend, crisis-fatigued like everyone else—what with one "jueteng" exposé after another (how many billions does one need in a lifetime?)—I took a break from print and TV news and took out a dusty book from my shelf. It was by **Truman Capote**—a writer I hadn't read for some time but whom the lifestyle set might be able to connect to these days.

This is because Capote wrote "Answered Prayers," the novel based presumably on high-society characters which stirred the glitzy nest of New York high society in the '60s and led to his dumping from the social register. It was said that by writing that novel that thinly disguised the fate and inner lives of his friends, he broke confidences—he was after all the toast of the jet set.

While Capote won acclaim for "In Cold Blood," it was "Answered Prayers" that made him the favorite meal of society columns, that and his famous Black and White Ball (copied to this day, even in Manila high society, not with the same classy effect, of course).

Anyway, since Mega Manila has suddenly taken a fancy to roman a clef (fact disguised as fiction), it should be useful, if not interesting, to know what Capote went through to produce "Answered Prayers." Since the day he started writing, he did not know "that I had chained myself for life to a noble but merciless master. When God hands you a gift, he also hands you a whip; and the whip is intended solely for self-flagellation."

He said writing was fun—"at first. It stopped being fun when I discovered the difference between good writing and bad, and then made an even more alarming discovery: the difference between very good writing and true art; it is subtle, but savage. And after that, the whip came down!"

Capote wrote the above in the preface to his "Music for Chameleons." Unfortunately, some of us will never discover the difference between good writing and bad. Worse, for some of us, writing is indeed a whip—to flagellate others.

Back at Nicotina

A few days after the burial of **Richard Tann**, his longtime companion **Inno Soto** was back at work, finishing the clothes of his clientele, seeking solace in routine.

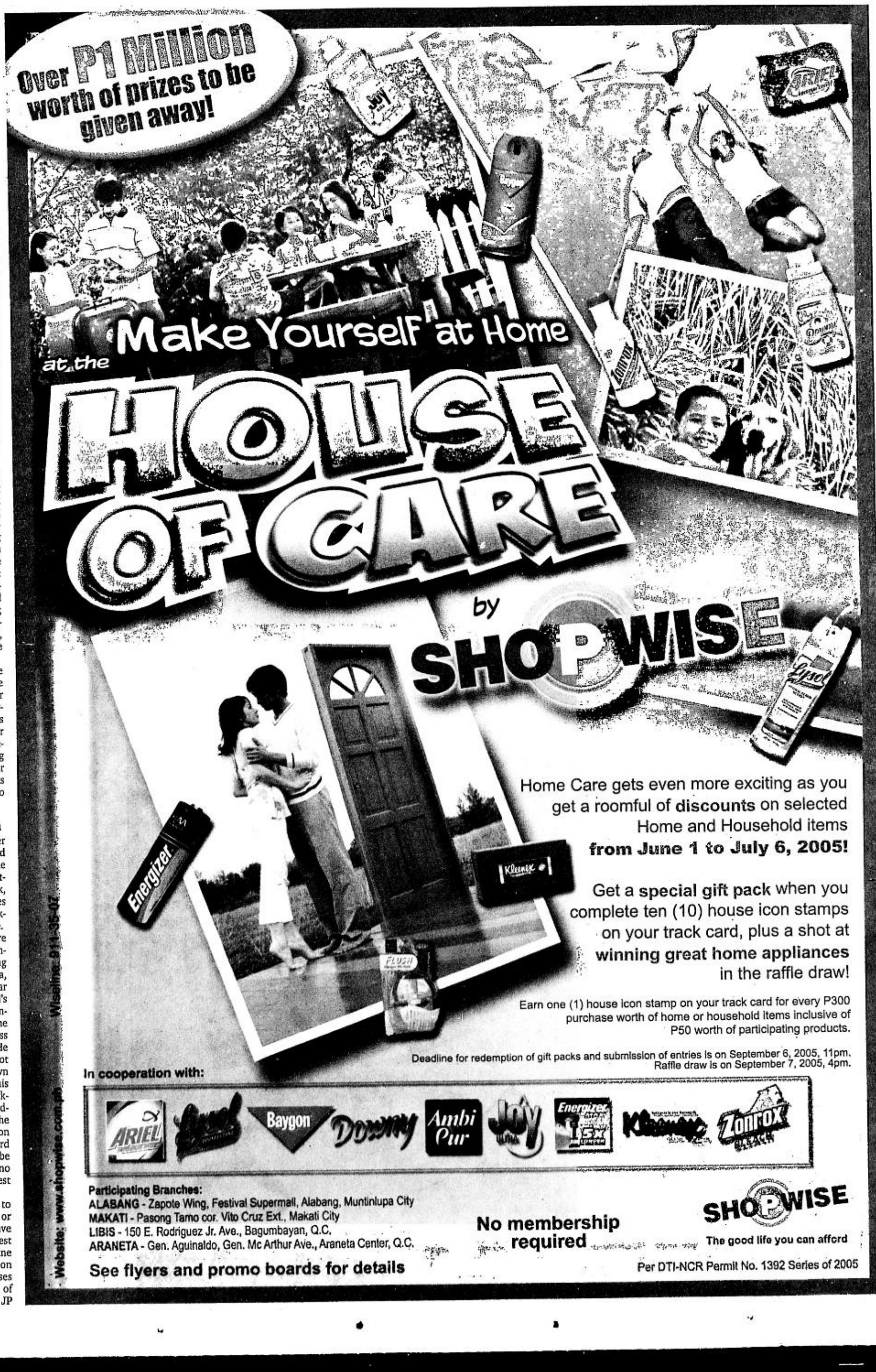
But what's more surprising is that Inno has been spending time also at Nicotina, the garden resto-bar that was Richard's baby. The non-restaurateur that he is, Inno nonetheless is trying to run it. He will push through not only with his own fashion plans this year; he's also working with some models to produce the luncheon fashion show series Richard had wanted. It will be a tough sell but Inno will give it his best shot.

This brings me to how individuals or private groups have been trying their best to stage a Philippine or Manila fashion week, or what passes for it. The efforts of **Joey Espino, JP Reyes** and **Robby Carmona**, among others, are nothing short of valiant. They pound the street, knocking on sponsors' doors, putting together financial and marketing packages, enlisting designers, while also conceptualiz-

WHY/E4

Look to Singapore for an example of what mammoth synergy can do

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ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Deadline for redemption of gift packs and submission of entries is on September 6, 2005, 11pm.
Raffle draw is on September 7, 2005, 4pm.
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ACTOR-singer JM Rodriguez, Anne Bella of Seventeen magazine and Kat Rodriguez

Russ and Menchu Alfonso; Janet L. Coronel, head of advertising, Cinderella Dresses Inc.; and Arthur Coronel, CEO, Cinderella Marketing

MODELS wearing U2 summer collection. Isabel Roces, Valerie de los Santos, Robby Mananquil, Georgina Wilson and Nicolette Bell

DJ Karl Ty of Superfly, Leo Po of Century Tuna and Richie Santos of Cinderella

Shop till you fashiona

HEY, it was cool shopping around with the fab new U2 Plus Card, *palanggas*. With this card you get a 10 percent discount for an accumulated purchase of P3,000.

Shopping that day with my U2 Plus Card got *moi* in a roll. During the launch, there were the upbeat sounds of Superfly, yum-yummy pizza from California Pizza Kitchen, and the night's special cocktail drinks, "the U2 Sweet Stinger" and "U2 Summer Kiss," which got most of the guests in high spirits, *palanggas*.

A mini-fashion show highlighted U2's Spring-Summer 2005 collection. The show presented ways to combine the season's key pieces.

Gorgeous **Georgina Wilson's** safari green pants were softened by a coral wrap cardigan.

Alec Van Dierendock, in a relaxed combination of khaki pants and sport shirts, proved pink is a great color on men (which I've always said so in the past).

Nicolette Bell looked real cool in her linen skirt and belted jacket combination, while **Rafael Kiefer**, showed off the finer points of incorporating a floral shirt into a man's wardrobe.

Making waves that night, too, were hosts **Rissa Samson** and **JR Isaac**, both in their own eye-catching hip U2 jackets.

The affair's best-dressed were awarded U2 gift certificates: Lux Asia's **Chris Yam** and Seventeen magazine's **Anna Bella**, *palanggas*.

Raffle prize winners had treats from Seawind Resort in Boracay, Urban Spa, Travel Club, Crabtree & Evelyn and Smart Girltxt.

But the best part of the evening was when everyone headed to the flagship store in Shangri-La Plaza to shop, shop, and shop.

The U2 Plus Card is accessible to anyone. No name is printed on the card, so it's transferable. It has no expiration date, either. All you do is present the card at the counter and your shopping spree begins.

Great idea from Cinderella's achiever and cool main man **Richie C. Santos**, but who else, *n'est ce pas*!

Hot cars

Big boys who wheel toys are g over glamorous *palanggas*.

In my case, if morning wantin that fab leather

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

luxury Daimler-C

So can you bla ing off to The Ter a night of glitz, g *turellement*, fabu

At the l launch, it was because of an town's hottest ca corporate world

This was one h we didn't talk politics, *palangga*

HIP "HITCH" far Kathy Yap and St Michael Huang

Barbara and Migu "Hitch" premiere

IN "HITCH," supermodel Amber Valletta wears a coc five-row necklace.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Marketing Corp.

drop, bly

love their four- ping gaga anew cars, cars, cars,

I wake up one to sit and smell roma, clasp the eering wheel, nd step on the ccelerator to oom away, that articular dream ould have to appen at CATS lotors. It is the nly car dealer in ne country here you or ot can find our ream car, the wesome, ultra hrysler.

me me for dash- t at The Fort for amour and, *na-* ous cars?

aimler-Chrysler elbow-to-elbow verflow of the lovers from the o high society.

appening where bout people or s, since we were

s. Twosome res Specialists'

el Aboitiz at

l Bulgari Lucea

PEPPER Teehankee, Richie C. Santos and columnist JR Isaac

Valerie de los Santos

GRAPHIC'S society columnist Gilbert Perez, Cinderella's Malou de Venecia, Grace Agbayani, Joey Kierulf and wife Tina K.

Bernard Go, Michael Tan and Richard Tiu

Robina Gokongwei-Pe

SECRETARY Cesar Purisima

upstaged when, Chrysler Groups managing director **Timothy Suchyta** joined CATS Motor chair **Greg Yu**, CATS president **Felix Ang** and CATS directors **Jun Pe, Ben Yam** and **Cecilio K. Pedro** presented the Big 3: the gorgeous Chrysler 300, the sleek Town and Country and the fun Durango.

I almost died with lust for these big, beautiful cars. A quick check at the audience only confirmed my suspicions. Everybody wanted to drive away with one of these babies, *palanggas*.

Hey, let's stop playing, let's drive.

Cinematic jewelry

The world-renowned, *tres* classic Bulgari held a smashing special movie screening of the hilarious movie, "Hitch," for its most valued big spenders and special guests at the Greenbelt.

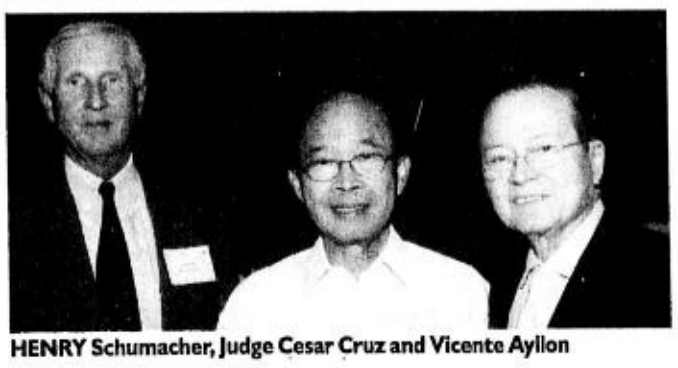
The romantic comedy stars funny man **Will Smith** as a New York "date doctor" who makes good money, *palanggas*, by instructing his predominantly love-hungry male clients on "the subtleness of body language and other dating techniques."

One of his clients is a junior exec, played by **Kevin James** of "The King of Queens" TV sitcom, who has fallen for an unapproachable heiress, played by gorgeous supermodel **Amber Valletta**, no less.

In several scenes, Amber Valletta wears an awesome Bulgari Lucea necklace, with five rows of 18k white gold setting, studded with black and white pearls and pave diamonds. Wow!

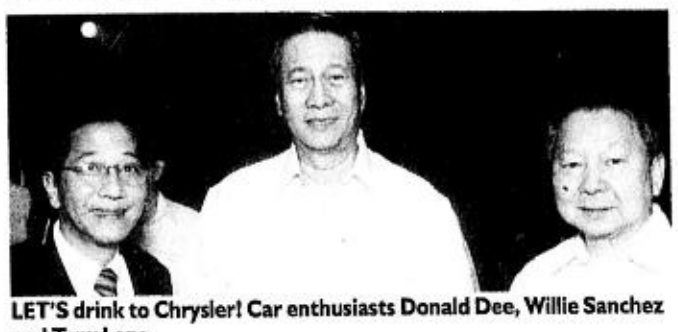
Like always, when a dazzling jewelry from Bulgari is seen, you can bet your last peso, there will be a *doña* or *señorita* who will check it out and most probably take it home, *n'est ce pas*.

Check out the chic Bulgari stores at 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati, and at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center.



HENRY Schumacher, Judge Cesar Cruz and Vicente Ayllon

DANILO Suarez, Mike Toledo and Tony Ang



LET'S drink to Chrysler! Car enthusiasts Donald Dee, Willie Sanchez and Tony Lopa

BUSINESSMAN Emy Arcilla, "Straight Talk's" Cito Beltran and Hapee toothpaste CEO Cecilio Pedro

HOTSHOTS romancing any big boy's dream toy, the gorgeous Chrysler 300. CATS president Felix Ang, CATS chair Greg Yu and Chrysler Group's managing director Timothy Suchyta

EVERYONE'S favorite gentleman, Secretary Vince Perez

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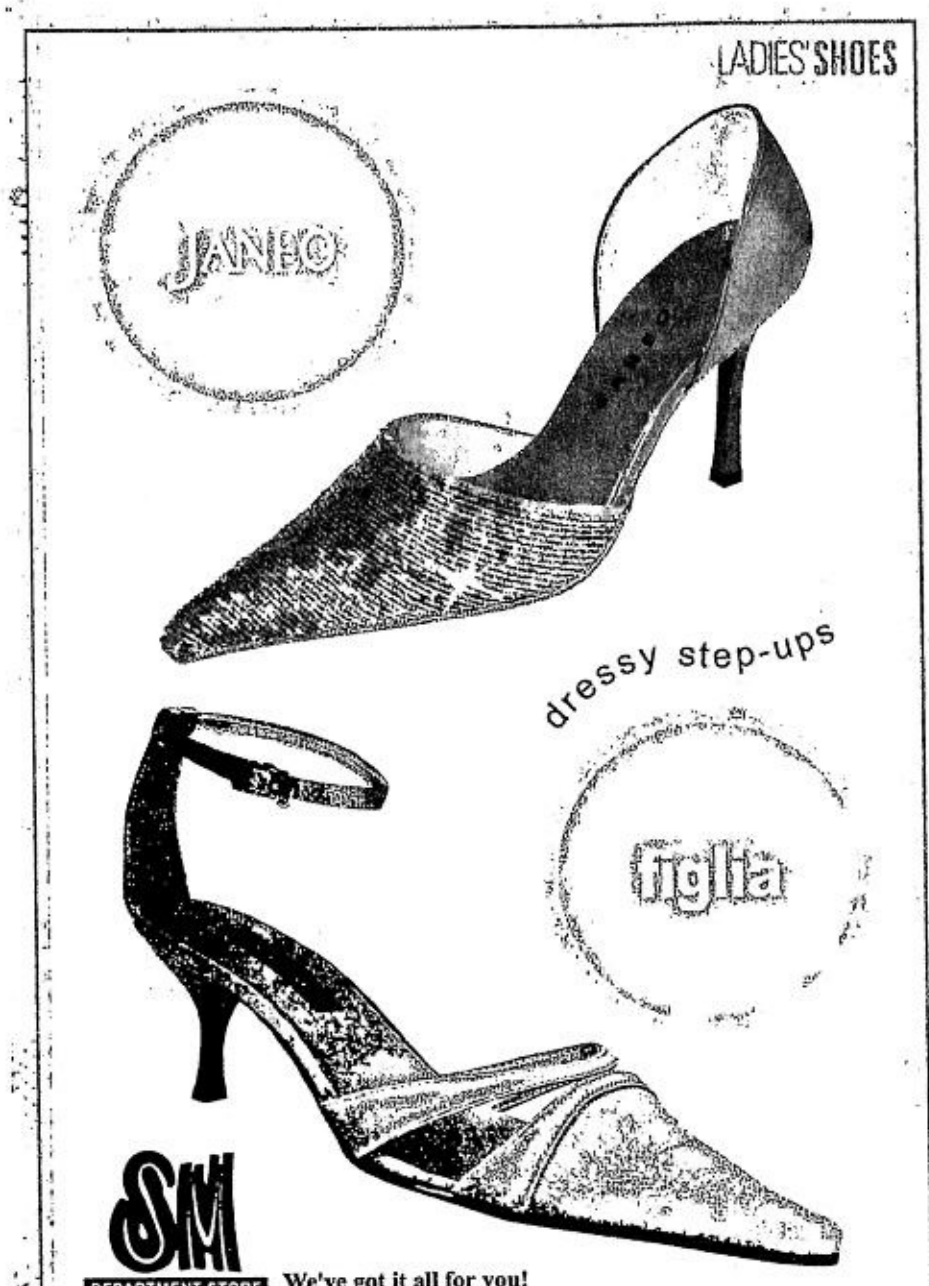
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Bicutan • Lucena • Baguio • Marilao • Dasmariñas • Batangas • Delgado

THE "SALUTE to St. Joseph" concert will be held on July 26, 6 p.m., at Fiesta Pavilion of The Manila Hotel. Proceeds will go to the renovation of St. Joseph Cathedral in Balanga, Bataan. Photo shows (seated) presidential chief legal counsel Mercy Gutierrez, stage director Angie Magbanua, Bishop Soc Villegas and producer Beth Sison-Tagle of Newsmakers Promotions. (Standing) Bataan Singing Priests' Fr. Perry Medina, Msgr. Mario Perez, Fr. Gerry Jorge and Fr. Rene de Leon

Celebrate Dad's Day at the mall

GOINGS ON

JOIN Starmall Las Piñas' Decorate Dad's Necktie contest on June 19, 3 p.m., at the 2/L activity hub. At 4 p.m., fathers and their kids will be treated to Father's Special with Jollibee. The contest is open to kids 13 years old and below. Plus, all dads get treats and freebies when they dine at Dencio's, Figaro, Mark's Sports Bar and Gloria Maris on Father's Day. Call 8755249.

PROMO. Buy a gift for Dad at Luzon SM malls and get a chance to let him bring home an all-terrain vehicle in "Para sa 'yo Tay!" promo. Raffle draw will be on June 19. At SM City Lucena, Toby's celebrates bonding with Dad with Father-and-Son/Father-and-Daughter Challenges. At SM City Baguio, make it a date with Dad in Magic Trading Cards Game tomorrow. SM City Iloilo will hold Radio One Father's Day Singing Contest today at 5 p.m. SM City Davao will hold a performance by The Songspell on June 19, 4 p.m.

EXHIBIT. Uni-President is participating in the First Food Additives and Ingredients Manila (Food AIM) exhibit June 22-24 at the Philippine International Center Convention Forum at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex on Roxas Blvd. The exhibit is organized by the Training Institute of Manila, the Department of Agriculture and Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization (Philfoodex). Uni-President will feature some of its products like Saucy Mi and Homi brands of instant noodles, different teas and snack foods. The event will be held simultaneously with the Sevent International Food and Beverage Engineering Expo. Call 6870654/6870604, e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph or visit www.foodandbeverage-manutech.com.

CONCERT. Paco Park Presents features soprano Minette Padilla and pianist Farley Asuncion in "Mga Awitin ng Isang Dalagang Pilipina." The program is set tonight at 6. Admission is free.

DANCE. Ballet at the Park presents Ballet Manila and Kultura Pilipina in a program tomorrow at 5 p.m. Venue is the Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

FAIR. "Your Wedding Moments" bridal fair is ongoing until June 19 at City Walk 2, Eastwood City Libis, QC. Call 0916-27733663.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park features Manila City Band and soprano Bituin Rodriguez on June 19, 5 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

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See flyers for details. Per CTI-ICR Permit Nos. AI-419 and 2817, Series of 2005.

"TAILOR OF ADRIATICO." Reynaldo "Myther" Buñag (center) recently celebrated his 56th birthday with some of his celebrity friends at Myther & Friends in Adriatico, Malate. Flanking him are Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, former Caloocan City councilor Nathaniel Santiago, Surigao Rep. Butch Pichay and Environment Secretary Mike Defensor.

Why our fashion week becomes 'fashion weak'

From page E1

ing and directing fashion shows out of this free-for-all.

It's a herculean marketing task—all done with private resources and out of a personal vision.

Singapore week

In contrast, Singapore has all private and public resources behind its fashion week. A few months ago we attended the Singapore Fashion Festival and saw what this sort of mammoth synergy could do. It was set up by the Singapore Tourism Board and big firms led by Mercedes Benz, which, like in New York, had its brand on the Festival.

From the airport to the festival venue near Takashimaya, the festival was visible—on banners, posters, even on Benzes that were the official cars of the event carrying participants around the city.

As one entered the tent, the on-ground visibility of the sponsors was overpowering—the ground you walked on had the Nokia linear design marked on it, Mercedes Benz had on exhibit the designs done for it from various countries, the loot bags were filled with flyers, even the bar had a sponsor, which was Bazaar. From afternoon to evening, there came one collection after another—jeans, lingerie, RTW. There were enough retail brands to sustain a daily show.

Indeed everything had a sponsor. It was Singapore flexing its retail muscle, the same muscle that was holding aloft young Singaporean fashion designers, with help from such culture institution as the British Council which staged the collection of London-trained Singaporean designer **Ashley Isham**.

Also evident was how the young designers could band together, despite the competition, to woo the foreign market. For instance, **Desmond Yang, Peter Fang, Angelynn Tan, Adrian Huang**—all young designers with disparate styles—have formed a consortium of their brands in a bid for the foreign market. They realized they could only advance with collective clout.

Unfortunately, we don't see any of these things happening here any time soon, despite having been on the forefront of fashion design earlier than the Singaporeans. Singapore, through its Tourism Board, gives the infrastructure for its fashion week.

For any fashion week to optimize resources, from marketing to retail, the government must be behind it. You need government support to stage a high-level fashion week. The government, in turn, can enlist the sponsorships of private firms. Our Department of Tourism can look into this. Without this, our fashion week might always be, as writer **Cheche Moral** wrote, "fashion weak."

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

POWER White

HYDRA Bright Lotion

OVERNIGHT Renewal

EYE CREAM

Brightening regimen for Asian skin

WOMEN throughout Asia have long known what scientific research is now able to confirm: Asian skin is different.

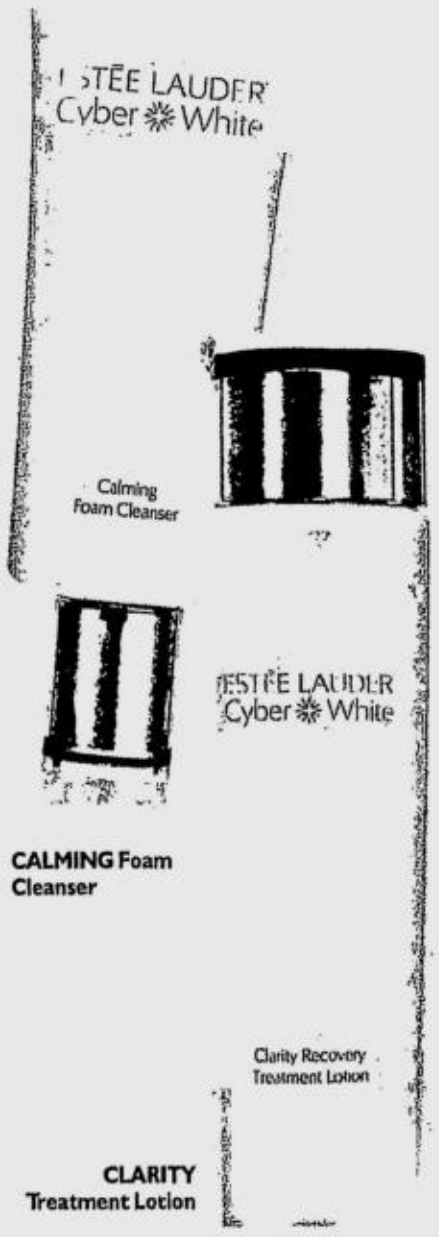
Skincare research has shown that the *stratum conium* of most Asian skin types is significantly thinner than Caucasian skin. That means that, for women throughout Asia, skin is considerably more delicate and more sensitive to environmental exposure than non-Asian women.

This intrinsic difference in Asian skin means that Asian women are prone to certain types of skin conditions not commonly found in other regions, such as hyperpigmentation.

Hyperpigmentation results in the appearance of unsightly and stubborn age spots and skin discoloration, necessitating specific skincare treatment to manage this problem.

"My team has worked very hard to really understand what it is that makes Asian skin unique. From very early on, research into the differences between Asian and Caucasian skin has been one of my priority projects. Without this fundamental understanding of the differences between different skin types, we would never be able to develop a product suitable to our customers in Asia. With the development of Cyber White, we have developed a skincare regimen that is designed specifically with the Asian customer in mind," says Dr. Daniel Maes, vice president for Global Research and Development, Estée Lauder.

Cyber White, the new skincare regimen from Estèe Lauder, combines breakthrough skincare whitening technologies with Estèe Lauder's scientific known-how to come up with a brightening skincare regimen designed to work with Asian skin, not against it. A unique blend of groundbreaking technologies, Cyber White works faster than any Estèe Lauder brightening line before it.



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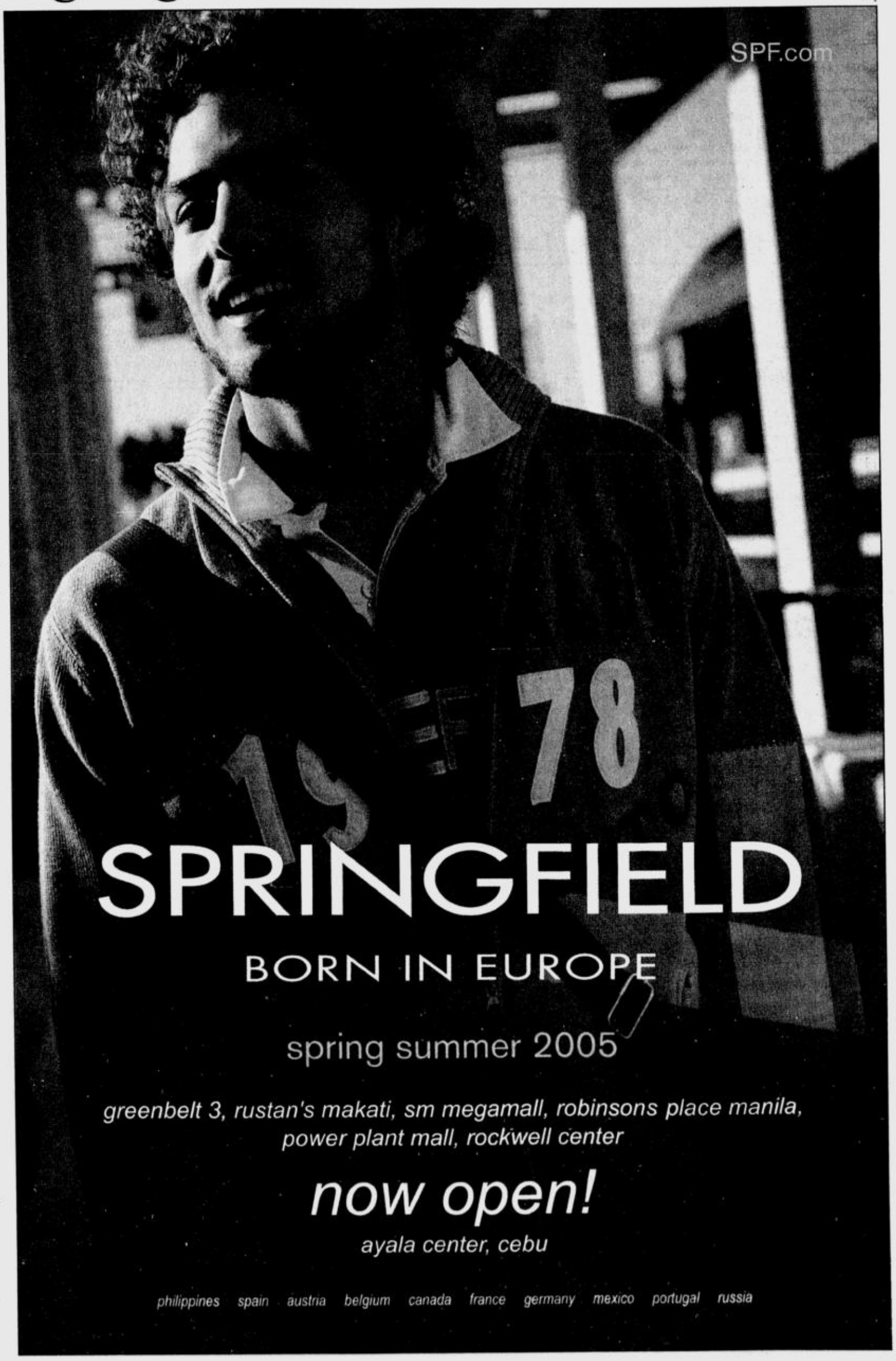
CLARITY Treatment Lotion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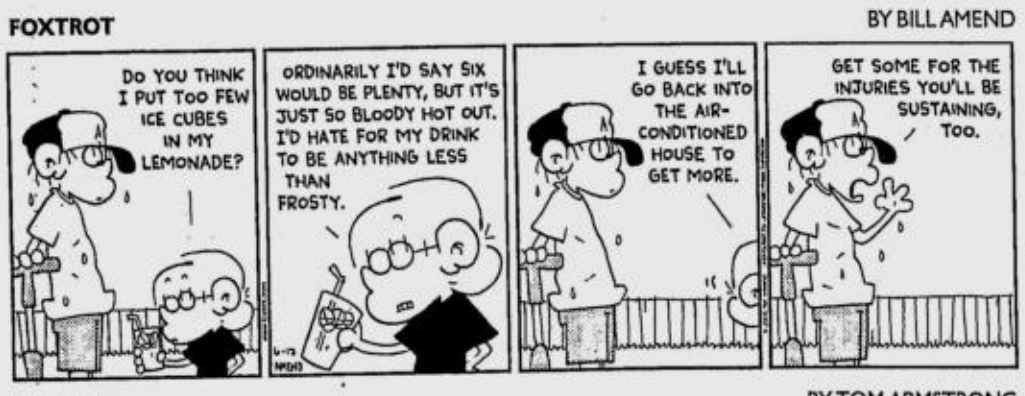

DO YOU THINK I PUT TOO FEW ICE CUBES IN MY LEMONADE?
ORDINARILY I'D SAY SIX WOULD BE PLENTY, BUT IT'S JUST SO BLOODY HOT OUT. I'D HATE FOR MY DRINK TO BE ANYTHING LESS THAN FROSTY.
I GUESS I'LL GO BACK INTO THE AIR-CONDITIONED HOUSE TO GET MORE.
GET SOME FOR THE INJURIES YOU'LL BE SUSTAINING, TOO.

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANG DAMI NANG CD!
OO
GUMAWA KA NA NG PARAAN PARA DI MAGKAGULO!
HETO NA NGA ANG PARAAN PARA MATIGIL NA ANG MGA TAPES
ANO?
GRANDMOTHER OF ALL TAPES!
LAST NA YAN, HA?

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

FACE IT, BERNIE... YOU'RE SEVENTY-FOUR YEARS OLD
...YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO BUILD A CART TRAIN AS LONG AS THE YOUNG BUCKS.
WAY TO GO, "POPS"!

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

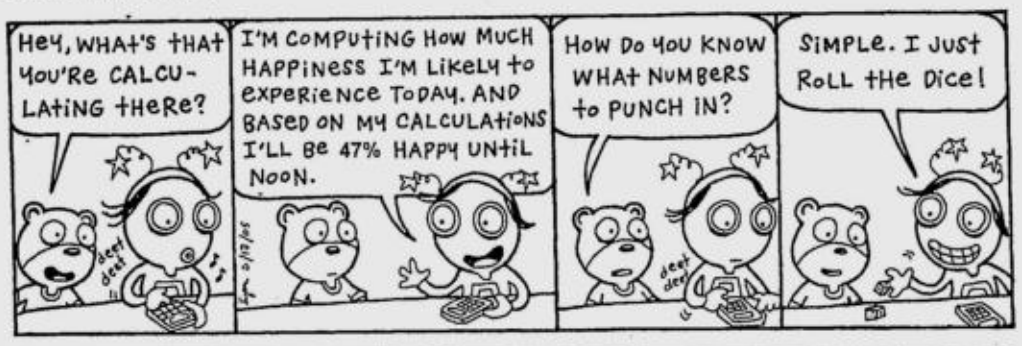
TSK! TSK! ILLEGAL DAW ANG WIRETAPPING KAYA HINDI ITO PWEDENG EBIDENSYA SA PANDARAYA SA ELEKSYON.
HERE WE GO AGAIN...
KAYA NAG-AALSA ANG MGA TAO E.
"YUNG MGA NAGA PODER NA NAMAN ANG PINABORAN NG BATAS.
PAMINSAN-MINSAN NAMAN SANA E MAG-PAKITA NG FAIRNESS 'YUNG JUSTICE SYSTEM NATIN.
KAHIT PAKITANG-TAO LANG KAGAYA NG GINAWA NG MGA NAKARAANG ADMINISTRASYON.
HELLO, NASH... PA-PRESS BRIEFING KA.
KUNYARI KAMPI TAYO SA MGA MARTIAL LAW VICTIMS HA?
ATSAKA KUNYARI PINO-PURSUE NATIN 'YUNG TAX-EVASION CASE N'UNG TAIPAN...

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

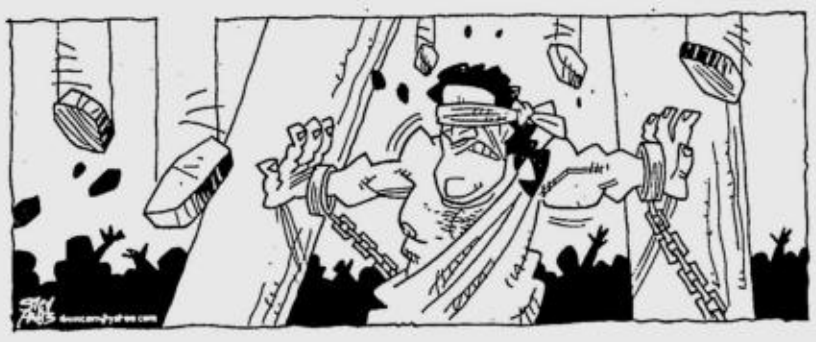
THIS HAS BEEN A REALLY NICE BREAK FROM THE KIDS.
MM-HMM..
WE'VE GONE THREE WHOLE HOURS WITHOUT CHANGING A DIAPER, WIPING A NOSE, OR SETTLING AN ARGUMENT.
YEAH.
YOU KNOW, I KIND OF MISS IT.
REALLY? I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT, BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD SOUND TOO PATHETIC.

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE CALCULATING THERE?
I'M COMPUTING HOW MUCH HAPPINESS I'M LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE TODAY. AND BASED ON MY CALCULATIONS I'LL BE 47% HAPPY UNTIL NOON.
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT NUMBERS TO PUNCH IN?
SIMPLE. I JUST ROLL THE DICE!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

IKAW TALAGA, ANG HILIG MO SA MGA MASAMA SA 'YO! MASAMANG MAG-LASING, PALA-INOM KA. MASAMA ANG CHOLESTEROL, ANG HILIG MO SA PULUTAN..
..MASAMA RIN ANG YOSI, BA'T DI KA PA TUMITIGIL?
PINAPA BUTI NITO ANG PAKIRAMDAM KO E!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Whatever you do, you take it seriously. You are highly responsible and are dedicated to reaching your goals. You have very high standards for yourself. Others will help you because you are so persuasive. You also have a strong physical presence. The year ahead will present you with an important choice. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Venus Williams, tennis player; Barry Manilow, singer; MC Escher, graphic artist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Do one thing today to make yourself feel better about where you live. It's important that you feel secure at home. You need the feeling of a solid, dependable anchor.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Give careful thought to major changes to your job or your residence at this time. Many of you are undergoing a period of transition. Figure out what to keep and what to let go of.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): As you give serious thought to what it is you want to do to earn a living, you have to know what your bottom-line values are. In the final analysis, what really matters in life?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Take a good look in the mirror. You are in the beginning stages of redefining yourself in the world. This includes changing your image and your appearance. (What about it?)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Continue to streamline your life. Give away, sell and get rid of what you no longer need or use. It's not easy. Be ruthless.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You need to find a meaningful way to express yourself in group activities. You want to be part of something bigger than yourself. You want to make a difference in the world!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Many things are working quite well in your life now. However, some are not. Identify what is not working—and let it go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is still a time of preparation for you. You know you're gearing up for bigger and better things. It's important to give it all you've got right now.

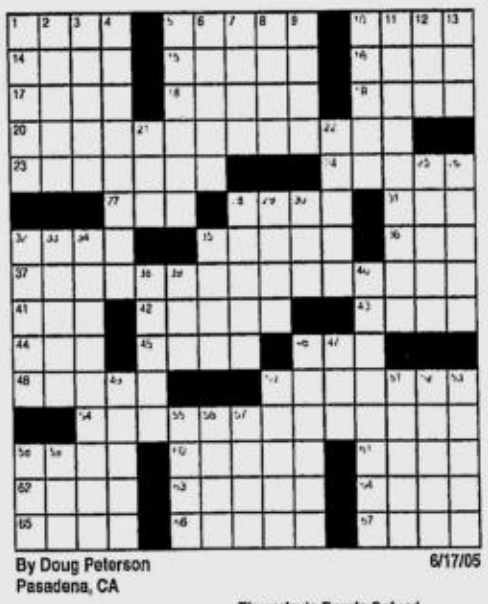
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Many of you have had to get along with less because of changes in your partner's income. This has only strengthened you. (Now you know what you're made of.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a testing time for partnerships and serious relationships. Make some adjustments if you know what needs to be done. However, partnerships that have outlived their usefulness are history.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Continue to work hard. Your rewards are just around the corner! Hang in there.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Increased responsibilities with children are one of the reasons you're giving a lot of thought to your career options. You want to find something meaningful to do with your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Doug Peterson
Pasadena, CA

6/17/05

ACROSS
1 Makes illegal
5 Chocolate source
10 Culinary honcho
14 Stage direction
15 Atlanta university
16 Apollo's instrument
17 Bandleader Puente
18 Ike's wife
19 On pins and needles
20 Magazine for mythical birds?
23 Catchphrases
24 Charley horse
27 Crumb carrier
28 Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives"
31 PBS benefactor
32 PDQ relative
35 Talk-show host O'Brien
36 Obtained
37 Magazine for whale watchers?
41 "__ the fields..."
42 Given a G
43 No sweat
44 Keanu in "The Matrix"
45 Tabloid pair
46 Quick punch
48 Salts source
50 Lay of the land
54 Magazine for the afterlife?
58 Jacob's wife
60 Jeweler's unit
61 Mix
62 A single time
63 Weasel out of
64 Chicken dish
65 Manipulated
66 Cavalry weapon
67 Plot division

DOWN
1 Henley and Daniel
2 From pole to pole
3 Funny-car fuel
4 Temporary expedients
5 Driveway material
6 Stock up on
7 Search thoroughly
8 Opera highlight
9 Bailiff's cry
10 Without blemish
11 Flowering shrub
12 Work unit
13 Whimsical
21 Writer McEwan
22 Serving perfectly
25 Cat calls
26 Soft touch
28 Tribal symbol
29 Oklahoma city
30 Turned tail
32 Make amends
33 Meadow flock
34 Lockheed Martin field
35 Adorable
38 Prettily
39 Mare's morsel
40 Lincoln's location
46 Motley buffoon
47 "__ you kidding me?"
49 Exclaimed in pleasure
50 Commerce
51 Shenanigan
52 Less cordial
53 Chutzpah
55 Luau instruments
56 Vesuvius output
57 Part of U.A.E.
58 Ironman Gehrig
59 USNA graduate

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	D	E		D	E	E	P		N	O	D	A	L
A	L	A	N		O	L	L	A		A	R	E	T	E
S	O	M	E	F	O	L	K	S		E	B	B	E	D
H	E	P		A	D	E	S	T	E			R	A	G
		E	V	I	L			A	R	E	W	I	S	E
M	A	N	A	T	E	E	S		I	R	I	S	E	S
O	R	E	L		S	T	O	I	C	A	L			
M	I	D	A	S		A	N	D		S	L	A	M	S
			N	A	S		I	E	R		I	L	I	A
I	C	I	C	L	E			C	A	U	S	A	L	L	Y
S	O	M	E	F	A	R	E			S	U	M	S	
S	U	P			B	R	O	W	S	E		P	A	R
U	P	E	N	D			O	T	H	E	R	W	I	S	E
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S	E	E	D	Y			E	O	N	S		R	E	A	D

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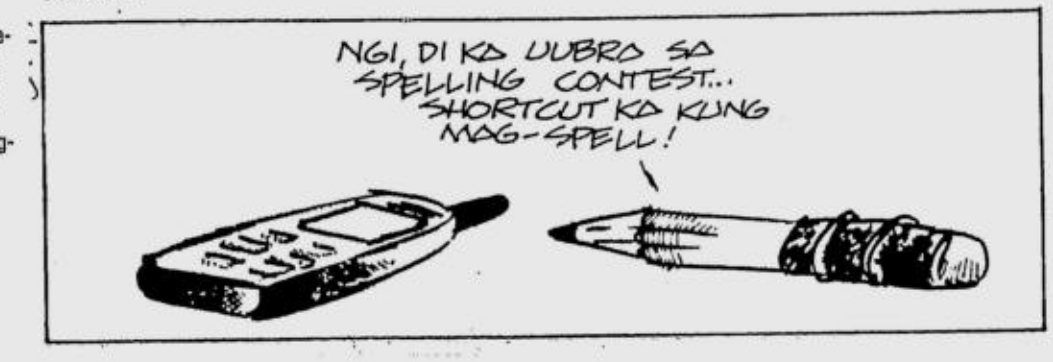
6/17/05

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


"I am really enjoying Cancun! The weather and the beaches are fabulous!
AND LOOK HERE, AUNT STACEY SENT A PICTURE!
IT'S A PICTURE OF HER SHOPPING
"And I do plan on enjoying them as soon as I'm done visiting all these adorable little shops! They're everywhere!"

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

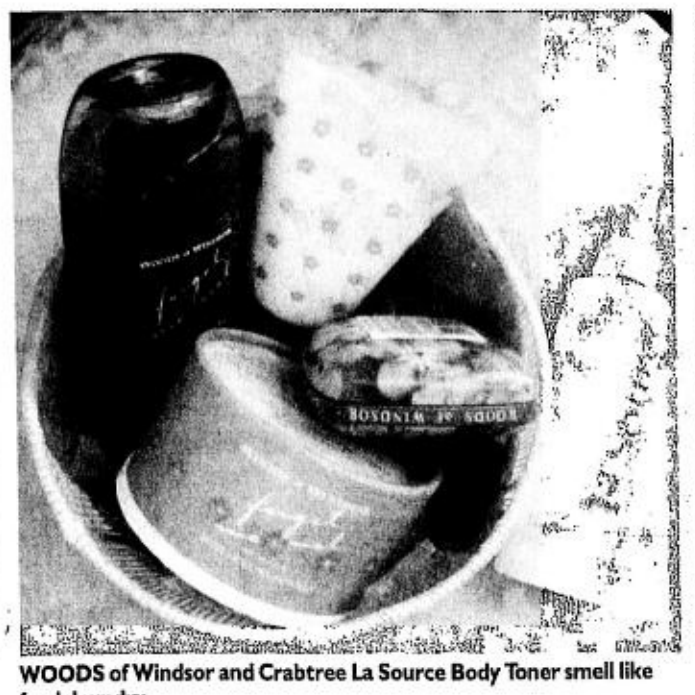
...ooh... TALAGA? WOW! SANA PAYAGAN AKO... KA KASIMULA PA LANG KASI NG KLASE EH. BAKA MASABIHAN NA NAMANG PURO LAKWATSA NASA ISIP KO... TSK!...
PERO SOBRANG OKS 'YUN AH!... ANO NGA 'YUN? FET? FÊTE? FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE! BUKAS... HANEP! LIBRE?! ASTEEG! ooo... DAMING BANDA... TSK! SANA PAYAGAN AKO... SUPER-HANEP 'YUN AH...
HA? O'NGA EH! MAGWA-WIDEN HORIZONS KO DUN! MEET NEW FRIENDS... 'TSAKA... hihihi... BAKA DUN KO NA MAKILALA SOUL MATE KO! PUTIK! ANO KAYA 'NO? SANA TALAGA - ooh SANA PAYAGAN AKO BUKAS!...
...AT MAGTANAN KA?!... HOY!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TALAGANG MAGALING ITONG CARDIOLOGIST NA NAKILALA KO SA QUIAPO, SCARLET!!!
MABABASA NIYA SA CARDS ANG PROBLEMA MO AT SIKRETO MO!!! WALA KA NG MAITATAGO...
PERO, ITAGO NATIN ANG MGA MUKHA NATIN, JAJA, AT BAKA MAY MAKAKILALA SA ATIN DITO!!!

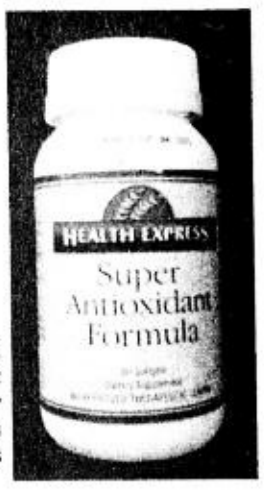
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

FRESH orange scents Lush gorgeous, Origins Modern Friction and CK One Summer



WOODS of Windsor and Crabtree La Source Body Toner smell like fresh laundry.

STAR products Awake SO Deletion and Murad City Skin Detox Treatment



SUPER Antioxidant formula for hair, skin and nails

Beauty's clean-up crew

FIRST there was the nude make-up craze that has stayed on to become a beauty staple. Now comes another trend so basic that it is surprising no one didn't think of it before. The trend is smelling fresh. People simply want to smell clean and both sexes are addicted to it!

Think soap and water, fresh laundry and fabric softener—a whole new meaning to being sexy. Here are some locally available products to make your senses tingle.

Smells like fresh laundry: Ultimate Clean Parfum, Bath and Body Works Cotton Blossom body spray, Woods of Windsor Forget Me Not body line (from shower gel to body spray, it is the most reasonably priced of the bunch).

Soap and water clean: Mugler Cologne; Crabtree and Evelyn La Source Revitalizing Body Toner (which has an aquatic smell to it that men gravitate to, so I would strongly recommend this for a Father's Day gift); and Philosophy's Pure Grace Soap and Water body fragrance.

Oranges: Perhaps it is all the positive attention Vitamin C has been getting that I have come to associate the scent of oranges with being fresh and healthy. The smell has always appealed to me so that my favorite limited-edition fragrance is CK one summer 2005, which smells like real succulent tangerines and comes in a yellow and orange bottle. Great unisex scent as well.

Skincare: Thanks to oxidation, pollution and the sun, damaged and aging skin are inevitable. My new secret weapons are antioxidant tablets, treatments and serums. Antioxidants are scavengers that give our body's general cleaning services by eliminating toxins and repairing damaged cells.

Oxygen is very beneficial to the skin, but sometimes they can be blind and eat away at healthy undamaged cells as well. These treatments help protect and rebuild healthy skin cells to stall the aging process at its tracks.

Obagi

Thanks to the book "Bergdorf Blondes," I have renewed my relationship with my dermatologist for Obagi Oxygen Facials and Jet Peels.

Obagi treatments involve face and shoulder massages, extractions (when necessary), and a boost of oxygen and Vitamin C spray that makes your skin glow instantly without the aid of makeup.

Jet Peel (P4,500 per session) is a new form of microdermabrasion where the crystals are combined with vitamins and oxygen sprayed onto your face with a mini power hose type of force. The finished effect is glowing matte skin that is even-toned and seemingly poreless.

There are days when I do not have time to leave the house, but since I am in dire need of a Jet Peel, I would try Origin's Modern Friction for my face and neck; I am very happy with the results and orange scent.

Origin has Vitamin C. I bring it wherever I travel because Jet Peels are so expensive abroad and this is something I can do once a week. I found it to be most compatible with Murad City Skin Detox Treatment (P5,750) and Awake SO Deletion face treatment.

These two treatments would take the place of the Oxygen and vitamin spray. Depending on your choice of topical treatment, City Skin smells like oranges and Awake SO Deletion has a clean floral scent.

Murad, a proven authority in skincare treatments, is a super concentrated serum that is pumped into the face and neck, but SO Deletion is massaged on the face with a saturated cotton pad. One only stops when the cotton stops gliding smoothly.

Sounds complicated but looking at the perfection of Japanese skin and knowing how obsessed they are about beauty, I am following the instructions to the letter!

Make sure you put moisturizer on top to seal the treatment.

Lush has a high-end non-greasy moisturizer called Gorgeous! (P3,950), which has that Orange fruit and blossom blend that goes well with City Skin. SO Deletion scent goes with any aquatic or floral moisturizer like Phytomer or Sekki Sei.

Non-beauty fanatics who may also want to have a fighting chance against the inevitable aging process are overwhelmed by the great number of skin products. It is advised they go internal and add Super Antioxidant Formula (P670) to your vitamin intake. Fanatic that I am, I take it along with all the other steps I mentioned above.

Its composition? Vitamin A, C, E and Selenium. The combination works on hydration, firmness, clarity (A battles acne and skin impurities), collagen synthesis—overall, reversing and repairing the aging process.

Warning: Too much Vitamin A is toxic so check with your doctor.

Call 8442939 for Jet Peel or Oxygen Facials; Murad, Sekki Sei, Woods of Windsor and Clean are available at Essenses. Phytomer, Mugler Innocent and Origins are exclusive at Rustan's and Philosophy is available at Beauty Bar. Superantioxidant Formula supplements available at any Health Express outlet.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas @yahoo.com

People simply want to smell fresh, and men and women are addicted to it

Pretty, pretty fragrance

REVEAL the pretty you with Becoming Pretty, the newest fragrance from Avon.

AVON, the country's leading fragrance house, has a new fragrance called Becoming Pretty.

This special scent opens up with an unforgettable blend of succulent tropical fruits including crisp Chinese Lychee, luscious Californian Persimmon and juicy Satsuma Mandarin.

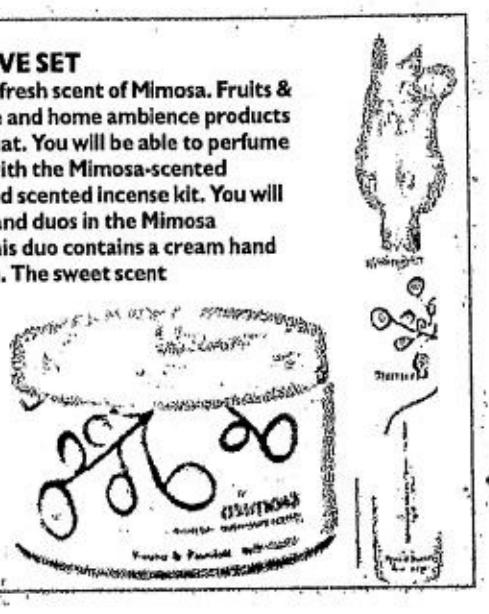
The heart of the fragrance is a floral bouquet of gardenia and creamy muguet, which dries down into a sensual musk that creates a feeling of warmth and tenderness. Fused with Balinese sandalwood and vanilla, Becoming Pretty is truly a celebration of all that is pretty within every woman.

The fragrance will become available this May from Avon Ladies nationwide and at Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Fairview.

As a special introductory offer, each purchase of Becoming Pretty will come with a free limited-edition Pretty watch. Get in touch with an Avon lady now, or call 8642900.

SCENTED DECORATIVE SET

Surround yourself with the fresh scent of Mimosa. Fruits & Passion offers personal care and home ambience products that allows you to do just that. You will be able to perfume the interior of your home with the Mimosa-scented decorative fragrance set and scented incense kit. You will benefit from the popular hand duos in the Mimosa promotional fragrances. This duo contains a cream hand soap and a rich hand cream. The sweet scent of spring is right at your fingertips. The Mimosa promotional offer will be available until supply lasts at the Fruits & Passion store in Greenbelt 3. Fruits & Passion is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is G/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center.



Robinsons Supermarket | Robinsons SUPERCENTER | big R Supercenter

WOW! Fresh for less

Back 2 School Paboon Treats

June 17 - 30, 2005

FRESH PICK OF THE WEEK

MAGNOLIA DAILY QUEZO 200g

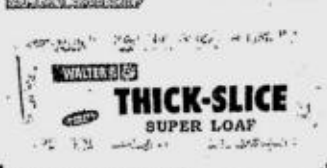
P22.40 each

PAMPANGA'S BEST TOCINO Regular 480g P69.95* pack

DARI CREAM Buttermilk 225g P25.25* each

RED GLOBE GRAPES (Not available in Tuguban) P128* /kg

MONTEREY Menudo Cut P160 /kg



WALTER Thick-Slice Super Loaf 600g P38.95 each

CUCUMBER (Not available in Tuguban) P25* /kg

ARCE DAIRY Classic Chocolate / Corn 1/2 gal P154.95* each

DANGGIT (Not available in Tuguban, Malabon & Eastwood) P63 /kg

SEAKING Relleno Bangus 300g (Not available in Tuguban, Malabon & Eastwood) P68 each

*Items & prices not applicable in Visayas and Mindanao

SAFETY FIRST Water

500ml P8.25 each

1liter P13 each

HOT BUY

MONARCH Corned Beef 340g

P62.75 each

Plain

P63.75 each

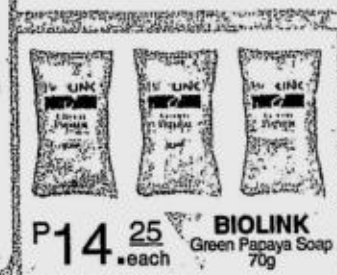
Hot Peppers / Lite / with Onions

ESKULIN Mulan / Ariel / Cinderella Shampoo 200ml

P85 each

P558.50 each — ENERVON Growing Up Milk Bright 1.5kg

P66.50 each — KOKO KRUNCH 170g



P14.25 each — BIOLINK Green Papaya Soap 70g

P43.50 each — MAXI-PEEL #2 Exfoliant 60ml

P41.90 each — STIK-O Choco Wafer Stick 380g

P279.35 each — CARNATION Calcium Plus 750g

P7.35 each — YUM YUM Choco Snack 30g

P377.75 each — ENERVON Growing Up Milk Bright 1kg

P27 each — SILKA Orange Papaya Soap 135g

P39 each — SILKA Papaya Whitening Lotion 100ml

P145.15 each — NIDO 3+ Choco 400g

P14.95 pack — JELLYACE Fruiteez Assorted (18's)

P185.90 each — BEAR BRAND Powdered Filled Milk with Zinc 900g

P17 /pack — JELLYACE Stixx Green (16's)

P26.75 each — ZONROX Lemon Scent 1 liter

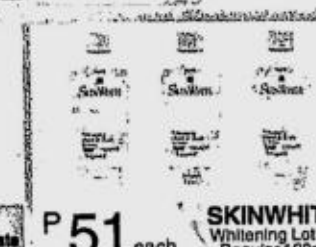
P26.75 each — ZONROX Floral Scent 1 liter

P35.75 each — MALING Luncheon Meat 397g

P87.75 each — CAMPBELLS Cream of Mushroom 420g

P40.75 each — VAN HOUTEN Assorted Chocolate 100g

P14.50 each — NESTLE Chuckie Chocolate Milk 250ml



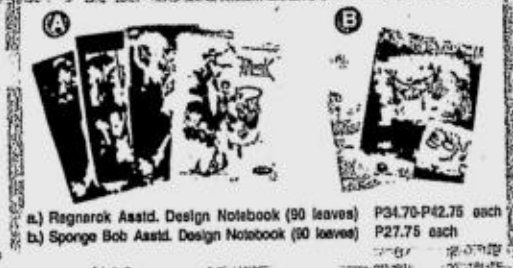
P51 each — SKINWHITE Whitening Lotion Regular 100ml

P49.75 pack — GREENEX All Purpose Cleaner 500ml

a.) Mongol Pencils (3pcs/pack) P16.50 each
b.) Mongol for Kid's (3pcs/pack Big SIZE) P17.50 each

Advance Assorted Cartoon Character Notebooks
90 leaves per notebook
P14.75 each

a.) Kid's Canteen 14oz (small) P64.75 each
b.) Kid's Canteen 19oz (tall) P74.75 each



a.) Ragnarok Asstd. Design Notebook (90 leaves) P34.75-P42.75 each
b.) Sponge Bob Asstd. Design Notebook (90 leaves) P27.75 each

Nestlé Fruit Selection Mango / Strawberry Yogurt 500g

P106.50* each

* Item & price not applicable in Visayas

WOW! low low prices

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET

ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
- Tutuban Center
- Metropolis Star Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkley Square, Tandang Sora

ROBINSONS SUPERCENTER
- Robinsons Place Pioneer, Mandaluyong

BIG R SUPERCENTER

ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
- Nepo Mall Dagupan

PER DTI - NCR PERMIT # 3337 SERIES OF 2005

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

6 ways to update your look

Story on page GI

HAIR with volume and intensely made eyes are just a couple of ways to update your look. Take your pick from other fun, feel-good suggestions for an interesting new you.

CLIP THIS AD TO AVAIL OF A 10% DISCOUNT ON JETT ATMOR MULTIPOINT

JETT
Shower Heaters
ATMOR Multipoint
BEST FEATURES
• Very Compact for Easy Installation
• Supplies hot water for the whole bathroom
• Fully Automatic (just open the shower valve)
• 3-way Temperature Selector
• Free Installation
• Free Lifetime Home Service

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Call us at
Magnolia
For more
Northeast

PROMO NOT VALID DURING 3 DAYS MALLWIDE SALES

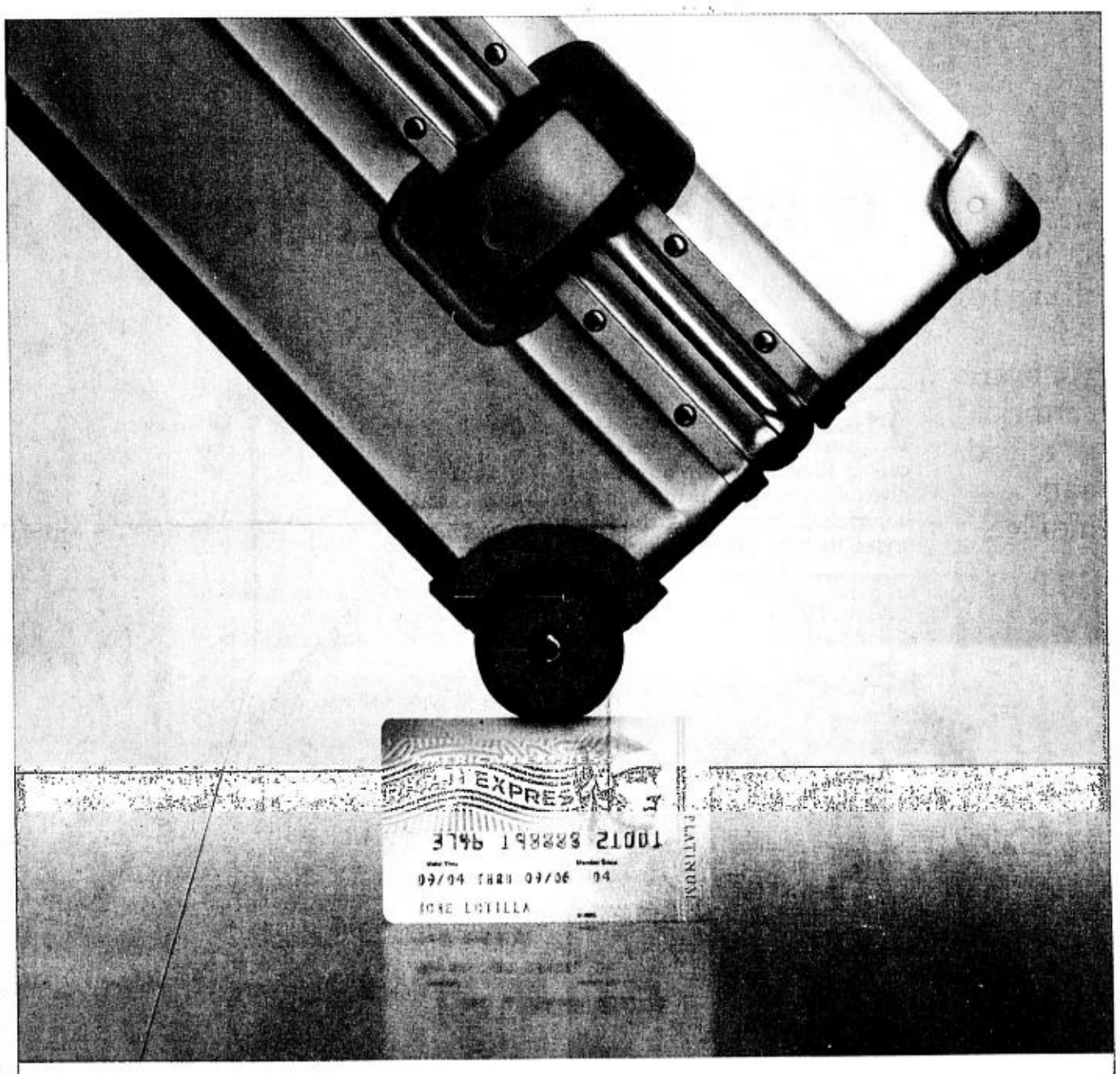
straight from the experts

freshaire
hair straightening centre

Enjoy 20-25% Off on
Diacolor Gloss Treatment
Rich Colour, Softness and
Shine by L'ORÉAL
June 15 - July 15, 2005

Pretty Affordable!!!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3125, Series of 2005



I LOVE YOU DAD

Novellino

The only way to enjoy wine on Father's Day

A splendid toast to Dad with Novellino wines — bold, refreshing flavors; rich, sparkling texture. This special day has never tasted so good.

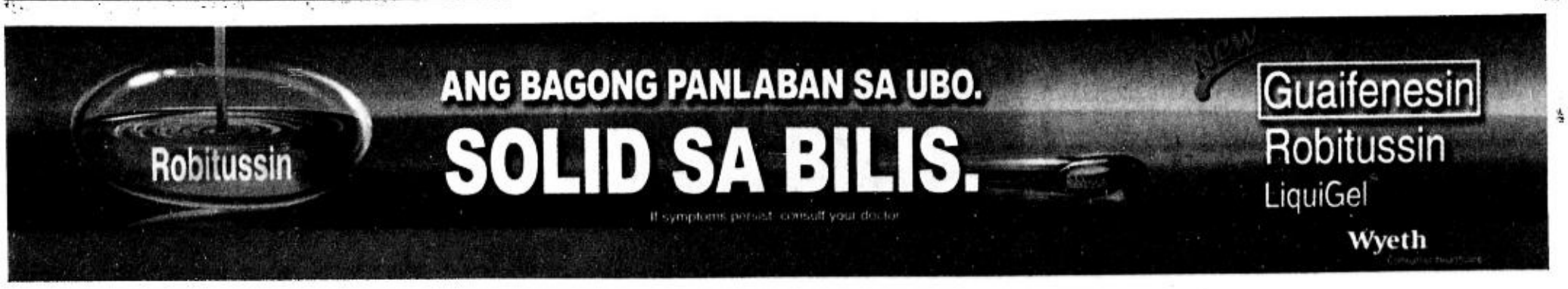
We've put two trips to Hong Kong on our Peso Platinum Credit Card.

The Credit Card that's loaded with benefits just got more. Because when you acquire the American Express Peso Platinum Credit Card before 31 July 2005 and spend just Php 150,000 within six months from card approval date, we'll give you enough Membership Rewards Points for a round-trip plane ticket to Hong Kong*. Spend more, and get a second round-trip ticket.

Apply for the credit card with substance at 814-4777.

AMERICAN EXPRESS

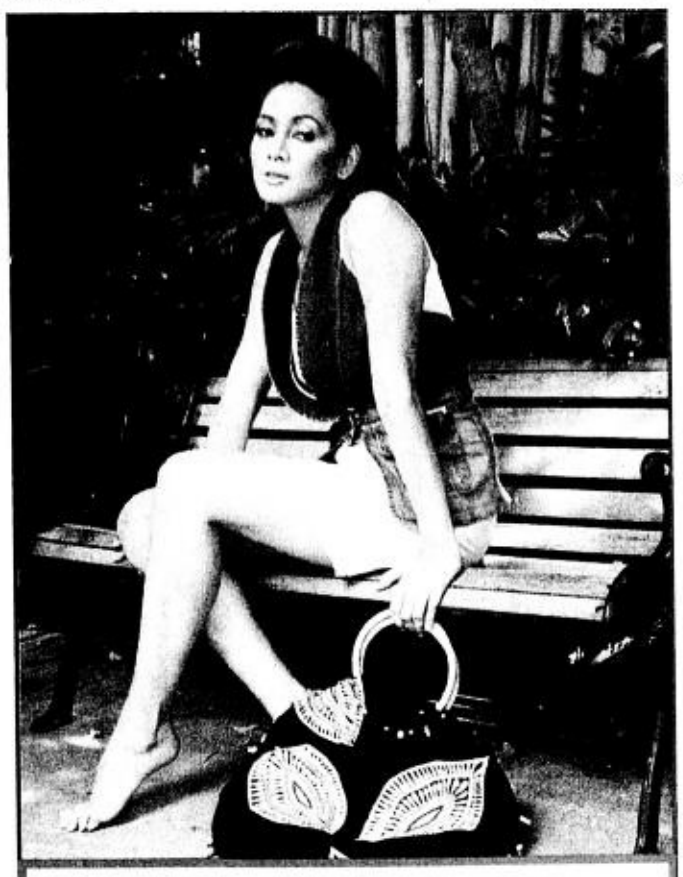
Terms and conditions apply. *Through the PAL Mabuhay Miles Program. Promo period: 08 May 2005 until 31 July 2005. Please see brochure for complete details. Per DTI NCR Permit No.AI-386, Series of 2005. Travel services in the Philippines are provided through Adventure International Tours, Inc.



The empire waist

This trend is as strong as ever, so if you have not yet invested in a dress or top with a waistline that sits just below your bust line, come join the bandwagon. There are different styles and prices to suit your personality and budget.

Diane Von Furstenberg empire dress, Betsey Johnson beaded vest—both from Rustan's Department Store



Modern indigenous

Modi is all about taking something tribal or homegrown and mixing it with modern elements to create a contemporary new look. Update your wardrobe by adding pieces that have indigenous touches such as shells or wooden beads, tribal woven accents or the like. You can also use traditional materials like *jusi* or *tinalak* to create ultra-modern silhouettes.

The cover of Preview magazine's 10th anniversary issue is possibly the best representation of this look. Kudos to Modi, a volunteer group of New York-trained designers and architects, and Preview's editor in chief Pauline Suaco-Juan and her team for shifting the focus to Pinoy creativity and craftsmanship.

Culte Femme yellow tank, beaded skirt and bag, Baby Phat denim vest—all from Rustan's

Necklaces galore

The necklace is the accessory of the season. Create a fashion statement by wearing a beautifully bold neckpiece with a simple outfit. Or adorn yourself with strands upon strands of chains, stones, crystals or beads for a more whimsical feel.

Assorted necklaces from Ice by Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Zimmerman jersey dress—all from Rustan's

6 ways to update your look

We all deserve little pleasures, and if yours are sartorial, go ahead and indulge

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION trends are a vicious cycle. They come and go at such an amazing rate that it can be difficult to keep up. But this doesn't seem to stop most, if not all, of us from adapting the latest styles. Perhaps this is because fashion is incredibly fun and makes us feel good about ourselves.

Well, we all deserve little pleasures. And if yours are sartorial, go ahead and indulge. Update your look and create an interesting new you. On this page are six ways to do just that.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

Big hair and smoky eyes

"This season is all about big, wavy hair and intense, kohl-rimmed eyes," says beauty maven Jeoff Moran of Emphasis Salon. To achieve this look, Jeoff made use of Christian Dior's Backstage Makeup collection, a line that was personally developed and supervised by designer John Galliano.

To create smoky eyes, Jeoff made use of Dior's 2-Colour Eyeshadow in Dioranise and Diortropic. Then, he smudged Dior's Waterproof Eyeliner Pencil in Intense Brown around the eyes. This was followed by a coat of Diorshow Backstage Makeup Waterproof Mascara in Black.

Jeoff also used Skinflash Backstage Makeup Radiance Booster Pen to create highlights and disguise dark circles under the eyes. For a healthy glow, he brushed on Diorshow Powder Backstage Makeup in Catwalk Pink all over the face. Finally, he applied Dior Addict Plastic Gloss on the lips for a hint of color.

BCBG embroidered evening gown from Rustan's

FASHION: RUSTAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE
PHOTOGRAPHY: JOSEPH AGCAOILI
STYLING: IZZA GONZALES-AGANA
HAIR AND MAKE UP: JEOFF MORAN OF EMPHASIS SALON
MODEL: PATTY BETITA
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE EMPHASIS SALON
THANKS TO TENG ROMA OF EMPHASIS SALON AND FERDI SALVADOR OF RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

The dress

If there's one thing you should add to your wardrobe this season, it should be a dress. A wide array of styles abound in the local market, from empire-waist printed numbers to classic LBDs. Don't wait for a special occasion to don one. It's a great everyday uniform and can be as fuss-free and simple as you want it to be. Plus, it's all you need to showcase your soft, feminine side.

Vivienne Tam wine-colored empire-cut dress, Dolce & Gabbana lemon yellow stilettos—all from Rustan's

Textures and prints

Turn heads and create a distinctive look by combining unexpected elements. You can either mix prints, textures or highs and lows. For example, take an embroidered vest, a less than ordinary tank and match it with a printed skirt. Or combine a casually chic pair of pinstriped shorts, a beaded tank and a shrug to create a trendy cocktail look. The options are endless if you just use your imagination and trust your instincts.

Vivienne Tam beaded vest, camisole and skirt, Fendi wooden slippers

Culte Femme pinstriped shorts and fish scale tank, BCBG rabbit shrug—all from Rustan's

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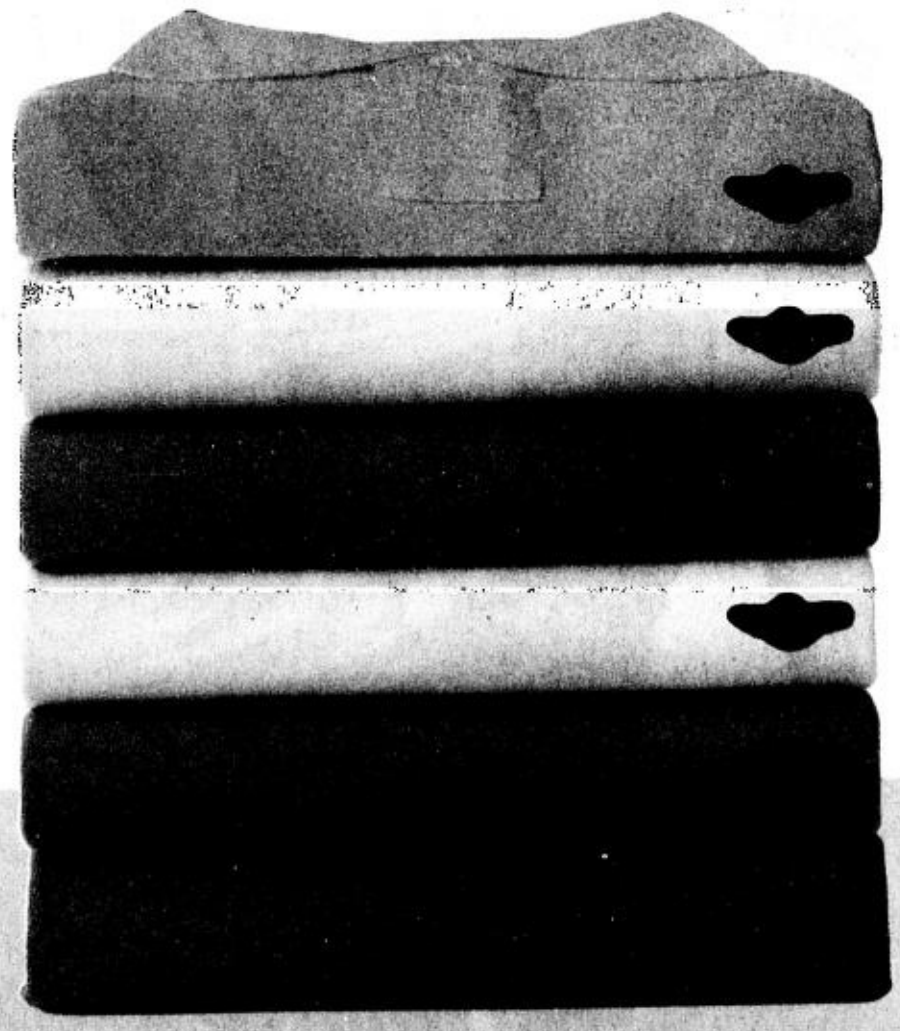

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- Ground Level, Ayala Town Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City - (02) 842-3229
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- 2/F Robinsons Place Metro East, Pasig City - (02) 682-6784
- G/F Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga - (045) 961-7645
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- Session Road, Baguio City - (074) 442-7097, (074) 443-9299

BELCHER chain necklace, mother-of-pearl cross pendant, bracelet and rings

MARQUISE amethyst ring, pendant and earrings

Even more sterling at seven

SELENE necklace

MICHELIS, the country's premiere sterling silver jewelry brand, marked its seventh anniversary with a once-in-a-lifetime sale of its products, offering up to 50-percent off on selected pieces and gift items.

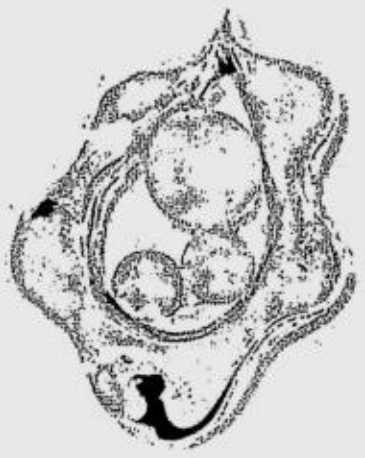
The good news is, the special offer is extended for another month. Marketing manager Alexandra Faustmann says the anniversary offer is an opportunity to usher in a new era for Michelis.

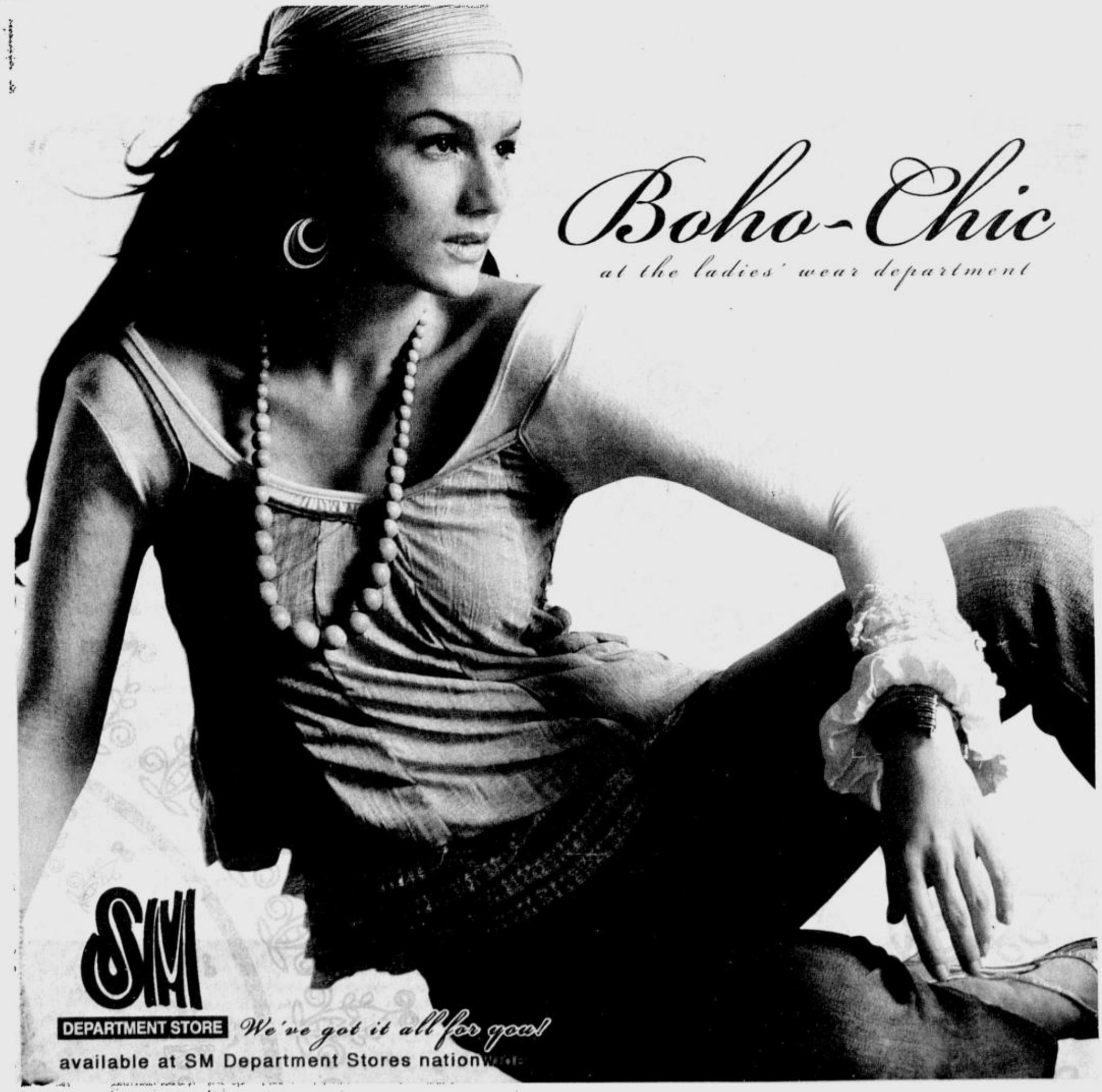
"We are currently coming up with more new items and other silver products to complement our jewelry lines. The sale is a way to clear the decks to make room for these new products. Expect more exciting designs and innovative items from the design house in the coming months. But for now, take advantage of the price cuts and get to keep a piece of the wonderful seven-year legacy of Michelis."

Michelis sterling silver pieces are guaranteed to possess the level of purity required by the international market and are handcrafted according to the strictest European standards.

Visit Michelis jewelry houses at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati; Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati; Greenhills Jewellery Centre in San Juan; Shangri-La Hotel Makati; and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati.

Michelis is also available at the branches of Rustan's department store in Alabang Town Center, Harrison Plaza, Robinsons Place Ermita and Rustan's Tower at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong.


SELENE stud earrings



LIFESTYLE

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THE "QUEER" smile that draws SRO crowds

How they wish he were straight!

Movie-star gorgeous Kyan Douglas makes Manila feel out of sorts, queer and so lesbian

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

AMID cheers, he complimented the girl. Facing her direction, he slowly went down on one knee, a wide grin across his face…

Then instantly, he drew back and said, almost apologetically, "Maybe in another life…"

The girl, and everyone present, knew the chances of this guy proposing to her—or any girl for that matter—was as close to saying he was out of a job because every guy around was already fabulously well-groomed.

As they say, in your dreams!

HOW/ H3

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2851, Series of 2005

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ARMANI Exchange

BAG it with Kate Spade.

DKNY

Fab fashion with the Fab 2

ARMANI Exchange

For once, the 'Queer Eye' visitors didn't have to suggest a makeover

STORE Specialists, Inc. hosted a night of fab fashion for the fab duo of Thom Filicia and Kyan Douglas of the hit cable television show "Queer Eye For the Straight Guy."

Trendy and casual brands Springfield, Calvin Klein, Lacoste and AX Armani Exchange, as well as swanky designer labels DKNY, Kenneth Cole New York and Anne Klein, heated up the runaway. Dresses from Jessica and Laundry by Shelli Segal floated by while bags by Kate Spade New York and Jack Spade were spotlighted.

Presented during the show were Robert Martinez, Lorraine de Leon and Jemps Gallegos, the trio whose luck it was to be picked for a beauty and grooming makeover by Douglas. The models were also reportedly styled by Douglas.

Douglas was spotted mouthing the words "so hot" to Thom. He certainly wasn't referring to the temperature inside the Ayala Museum, venue of the glitzy event.

UNDERSTATED look of DKNY

MADE OVER by Kyan Douglas were Robert Martinez, Lorraine de Leon and Jemps Gallegos.

THE FAB Two with Designer Randy Ortiz, stylist Jing Monis, designer Tonichi Nocom and F&H's Ronald Pineda

WITH AYALA Land Inc.'s Executive vice president Miriam Katigbak, Ayala Land Inc's vice president for Operations Rowena Tomeldan, and Advertising and Promotions manager Cathy Bengzon

WITH VISIONS and Expressions' Ginggay dela Merced

WITH BEA Lhuillier, Anton and Nina Huang, and Javi and Teresa Hernandez

WITH HSBC's Warner Manning and wife Julie

How they wish he were straight!

From page H1

Even then, Kyan Douglas, of the hit TV show, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," didn't disappoint the multitude of queers and straights who trooped to the Greenbelt 3 lobby Saturday afternoon.

For an hour, he shared his expertise on beauty and grooming, presenting two girls and one guy he made over with the help of makeup artist Patrick Rosas and the stylists of Essensuals Toni & Guy.

He also gamely answered personal queries from the audience—including the girl in question, who boldly asked him to marry her. Best of all, Douglas indulged his fans as he endlessly flashed his turn-your-knees-to-Jell-O smile.

"Grooming Guru" Kyan is one-fifth of the Fab 5, the quintet that makes up the phenomenally successful, Emmy award-winning reality-TV cable show. Douglas was here last weekend with "Design Doctor" Thom Filicia

HOW/ H4

THE GROOMING Guru explains the transformation done on the two lucky makeover girls and a guy—their "before" photos spotlighted behind them—as the afternoon's emcee, Lifestyle columnist Anton San Diego, looks on.

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See flyers for full details.

For DTI-NCR Permit No. 1080 Series of 2005

DOUGLAS is flanked by his "makeover projects" Jemps Gallegos, Robert Martinez and Lorraine de Leon.

How they wish he were straight!

From page H2

for a one-day promotional tour sponsored by Ayala Malls and Stores Specialists Inc., which put up a fashion show that evening with the Fab 2 as guests. *(The Lifestyle story on Filicia is coming out this Sunday.)*

Banners and all

It was evident, however, that those present in Greenbelt were there not really to get grooming advice, but to simply ogle at Douglas' movie-star good looks. Some even brandished banners declaring their adulation.

At one point, the place got so crowded Douglas commented on the heat and went on to remove his jacket, eliciting delighted shrieks from the adoring crowd.

"Thom and I met with some people yesterday, and we were quite impressed," Douglas said. "Filipinos are quite fashion-conscious!"

Skincare

In response to a question from the audience, Douglas described his dresser as akin to a L'Oreal store shelf, with products upon products of the cosmetic brand laid out.

The French cosmetic firm last year signed him on to be its first global spokesperson for all categories—cosmetics, skincare and hair products.

Douglas said men should be especially particular about skincare because, unlike women, they can't hide tired and blemished skin with makeup.

"I dress very casually," said the Levi's-clad Douglas, "so it takes me only 15-20 minutes to get ready when I'm meeting with friends... But when I'm stepping out for a date..." he trails, allowing a few seconds for the cheering audience to quiet down, "or when I have to go before [an audience of] beautiful Filipinos, it might take me 45 minutes."

Douglas, who trained at the Aveda Institute New York, and was a colorist at the posh Arrojo Studio in New York's Soho, stressed the importance of education, just as it was imperative to be well groomed.

"Keep a journal," he advised, "and read," adding his reading interests include philosophy and other religions. Douglas said he and his sister were the first in their family to go to college.

Behind the scenes

Douglas also let in his audience on some behind-the scenes secrets of the show.

It actually takes three days to shoot one episode, not one day, as Filicia alone needs two days to redo a "Straight Guy's" house. Douglas himself needs half a day for grooming consultations.

So, does a "Queer Eye" mentally makes over each person he meets, INQUIRER Lifestyle asked?

"It's not always on my mind," he replied with a guffaw. "When I'm with friends I like to have fun with them, not pick on what's wrong [with their look]..."

He added change should not be forced on people. "It's important to advise people to change to a level that they're comfortable with."

Straight talk with Kyan Douglas

By Tim Yap

On how he got discovered

It was sheer luck. We all had very interesting stories about how we hit it up on the show. Thom got stuck in an elevator, which is hysterical. For me I was working in a hair salon as a colorist, and one of our clients at the salon was friends with the casting director So her friend was talking to her about how she was casting for the show, and if she could help her find people. Our client said, "Oh, I know someone—there's this Kyan who works at the salon where I get my hair cut. And so she made the connection and I just went to three auditions and then I got the part.

On his personal grooming habits

I have an arsenal of L'Oreal products in my medicine cabinet that I wear daily. I love Kerastase. They just came out with a new men's line—their skin care—it's called men's experts. And then I eat well, do yoga in the mornings.

On his spirituality

Ever since I was young, I was always interested in exploring, I know that there are many paths to God—there is not just one path.

On his yoga practice

I do Kundalini yoga and I just do it at home.

On the queer eyes who are still single

Carson is single, and Jai is single.

On his relationship

We've been together for over a year. We met before the show but we started dating after.

On them grooming each other

Oh yeah we do, all the time.

On his being a role model

I'm very proud to be a gay American human being and I've met so many people. I just feel very honored to be able to do what I do, being a gay man.

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Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

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To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional

Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "Im an avid golfer so Im very much exposed to the sun. Thats how I had freckles. And Ive tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that youre supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, thats totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

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June 19, 2005

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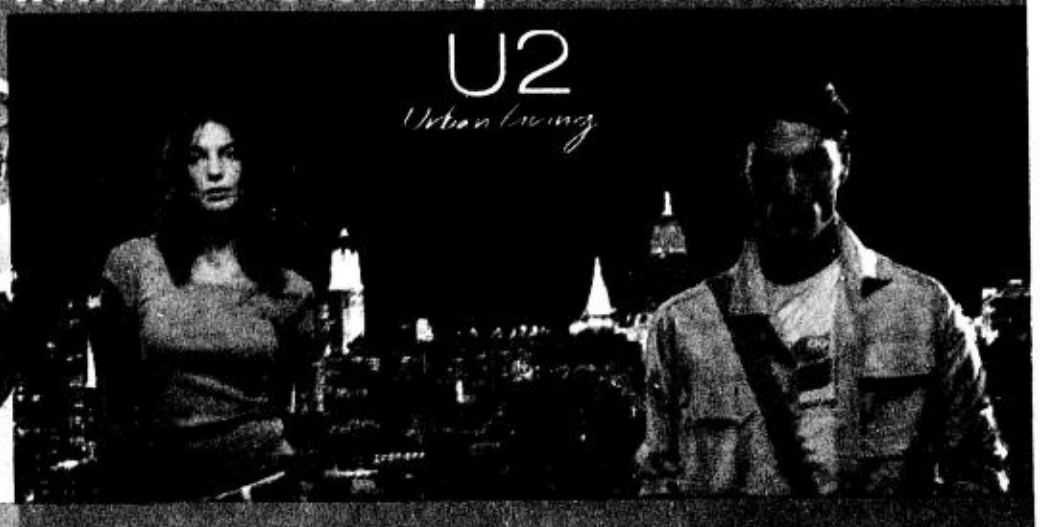
PIZZA HUT



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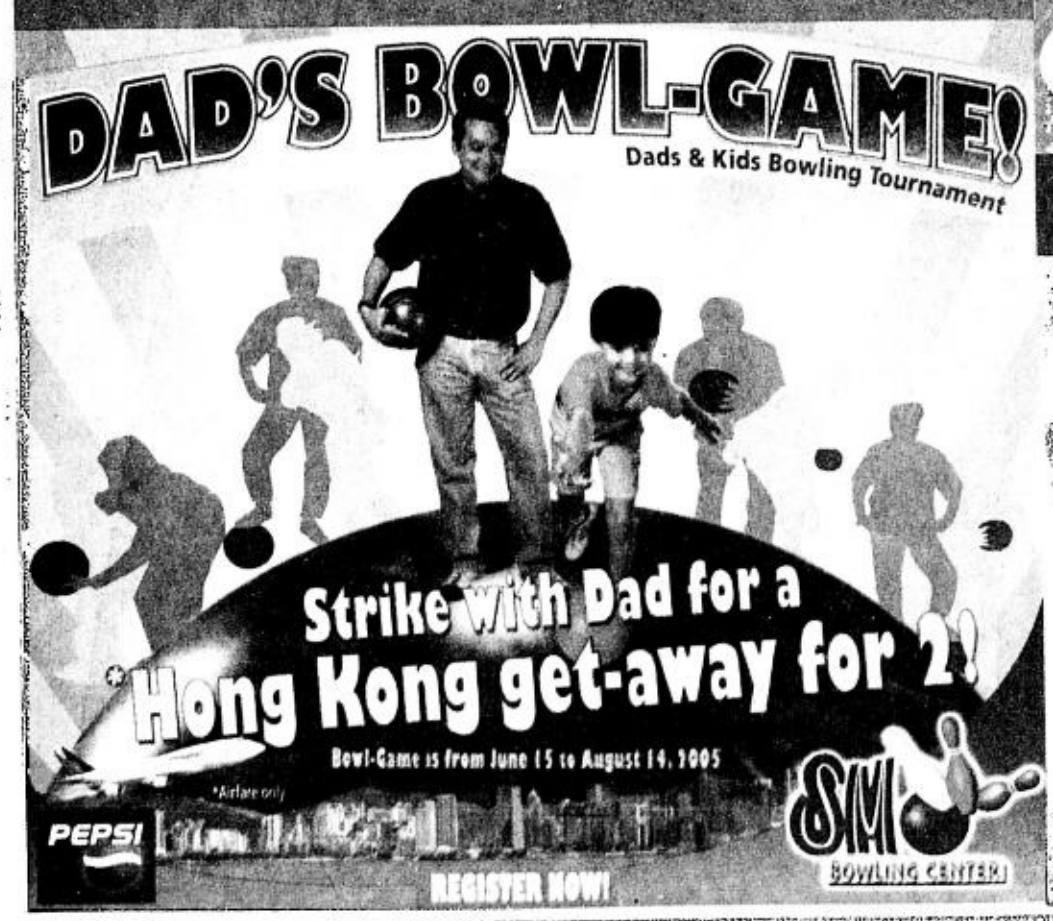

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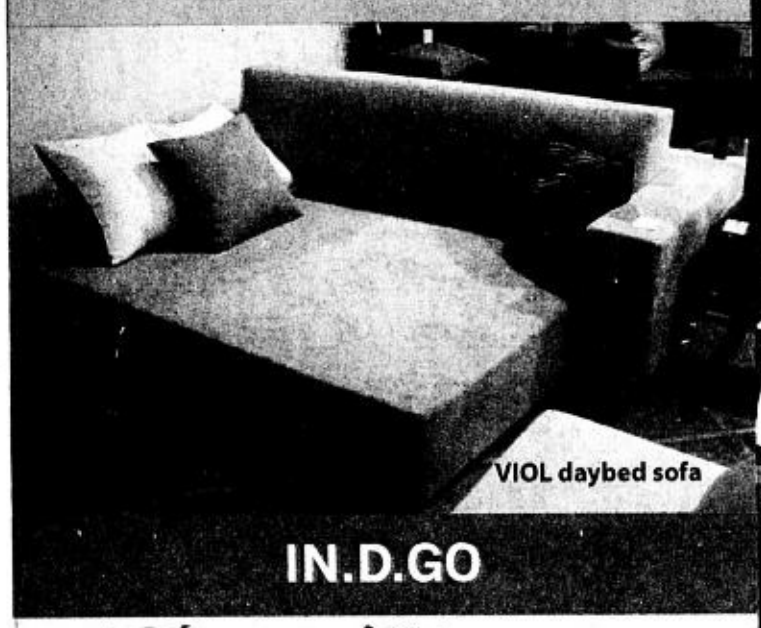
See Posters for Details

DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2901 Series of 2005

SM SUPERMALLS

Great Gifts for Great Dads

GRANSTAR



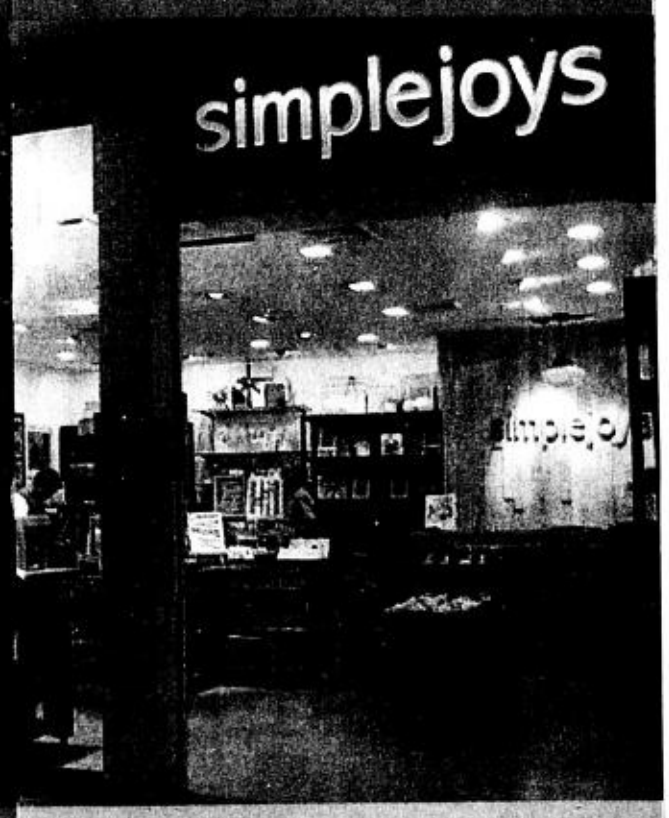
IN.D.GO

KLAPPSTUHL

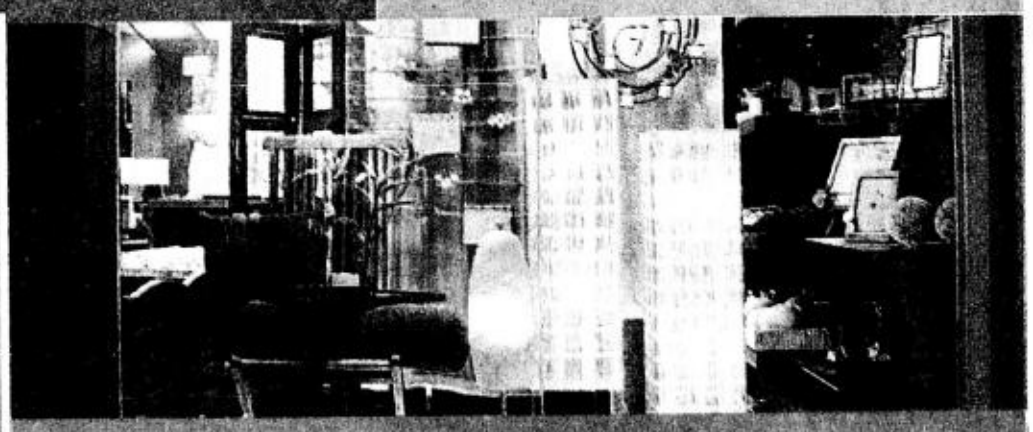
SAN JOSE KITCHEN CABINETS

STAINED GLASS OVERLAY

PERFECT PITCH



SIMPLEJOYS



REGALONG PAMBAHAY

CHINABANK

Grateful at 85 Anniversary Promo

Grand Prize: ₱ 2.85 Million

Other Prizes:
Hong Kong trip for 2,
Home entertainment package,
Handycam, 85 Cellphones, 85 DVD Players,
P85,000 worth of Deposit Accounts

Hurry! Open an account or avail of a Home or Auto Loan NOW!

Promo Runs until July 31, 2005

DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 6964 Series of 2005

SUKHOTHAI

Get a ₱ 200 Gift Check*

for every P1,000 dine-in single receipt purchase.

Promo runs June 12, 13, & 19, 2005 at SM Megamall only.

*Gift check is not honored during promo period

DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A3-431 Series of 2005

More Treats for Dad!

MARKS AND SPENCER

15% off

on all men's woven and knitted boxers

Promo Runs June 5 - 25, 2005

THE BODY SHOP

Enjoy 20% off

on Tea tree oil foaming wash for every P400 purchase of any item at all SM branches.

Get a dessert coupon

from Italianni's or TGIF or Outback for a minimum single receipt purchase of P 800 at selected SM Supermalls

Promo runs from June 1 - 23.

PROLINE SPORTS CENTER

10% Discount

on Micro Mini Backboards, Underglass Jersey Ball, 2005 Model Team Logos and Playerball.

Promo Runs June 8 - 19

Participating SM Malls:
Megamall · Southmall · North EDSA

DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 330 Series of 2005

OCEANIC 1911

50% Discount

on Jewelry with Brills
(Cash Basis Only)

up to 80% Discount

on Gift Items

Promo runs June 11 - 30, 2005

Participating SM Malls:
Megamall · North EDSA · Southmall · Manila

DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1494 Series of 2005

SM SUPERMALLS

Father's Day Feast!

STARBUCKS COFFEE

Beverages, beans and baristas.
All the things you like.
And a few surprises too.

STARBUCKS

New On The Menu!

WENDY'S

KOMORO SOBA

Japanese Fast Food Restaurant

KOMORO SOBA

Enjoy a Super Celebration with Super Bowl's Kung Pao Chicken.

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA

メンソーミ

SAISAKI

THE AUTHENTIC JAPANESE RESTAURANT AND SUSHI BAR

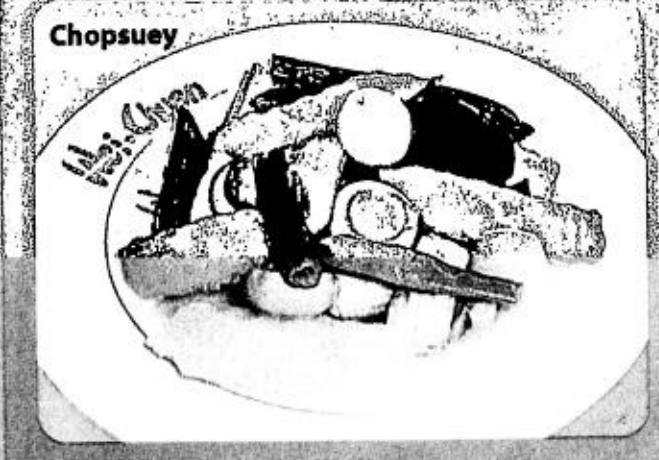
SAISAKI

TOKYO TOKYO

A feast fit for a king!

SM FOODCOURT

GREENWICH

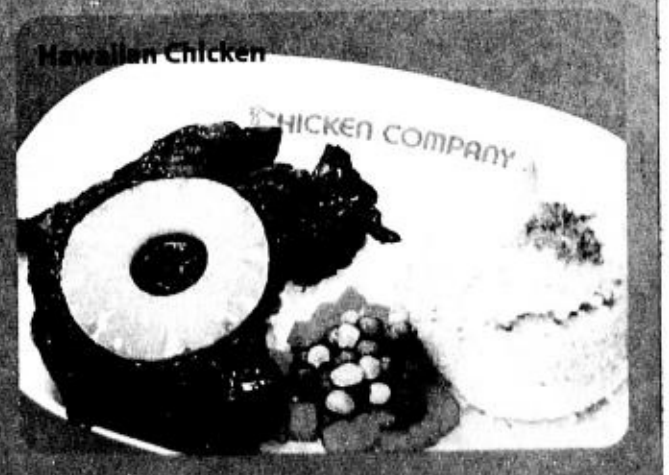


WEI CHUAN

KFC

KUSINA NI GRACIA

GOTO KING



CHICKEN COMPANY

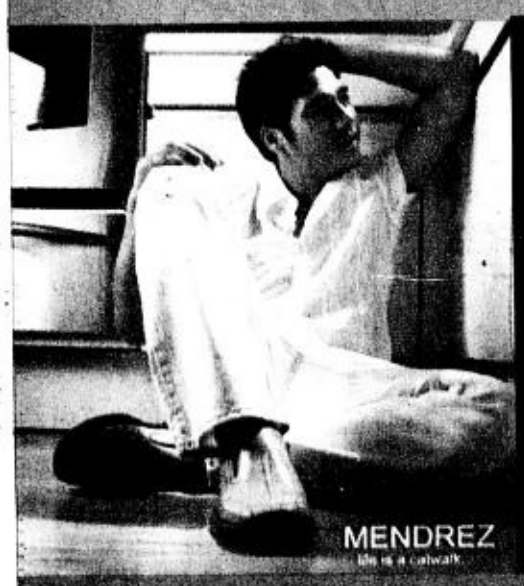
SM SUPERMALLS

Time out for Dad!

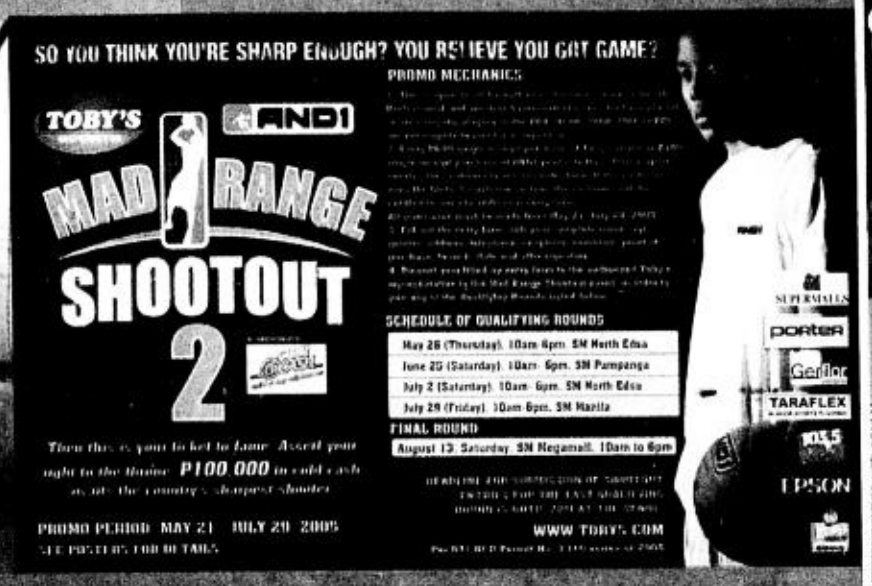
LA GEAR

REEBOK

LA GEAR



REEBOK

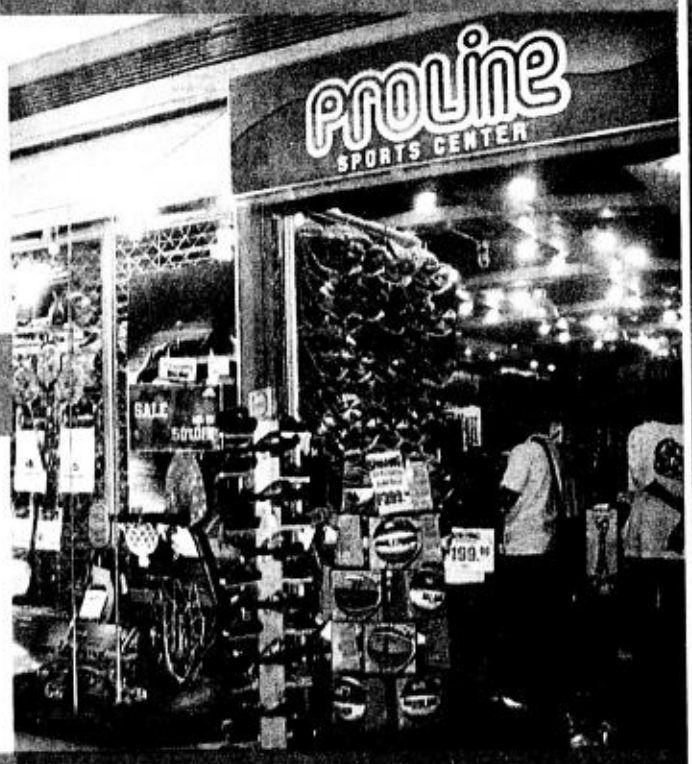


MENDREZ

TOBY'S

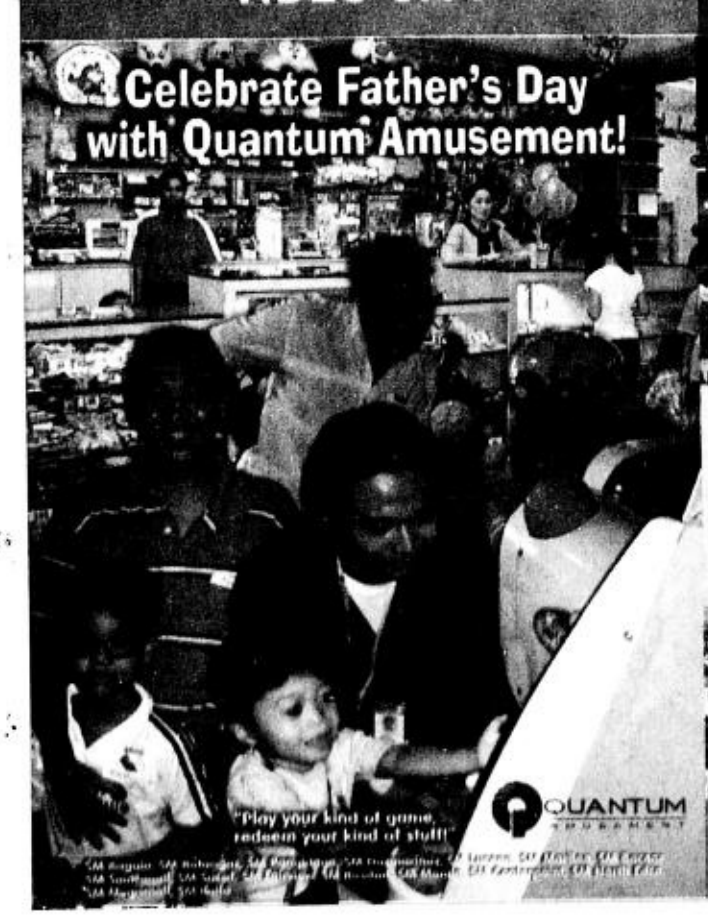
odyssey
MUSIC & VIDEO

ODYSSEY



VIDEO CITY

PROLINE



TOWER RECORDS

SM CINEMA
Hi-tech sound.
Cool! Carpet!
How comfy the seats!
No hassle seating.
Wow! It looks so real!
We invite you to
SM Premiere Cinemas.
Guaranteed seating.
Bright new screens.
Digital acoustic sounds,
designer upholstered seats,
and soft carpeted flooring.
Now Open
SM Sta Mesa - Cinemas 4 & 5
SM Southmall - Cinemas 1 & 2
SM Cebu - Cinema 2
SM Megamall - Cinemas 7, 8, & 9
Opening Soon
SM Megamall - Cinemas 5 & 6
SM North EDSA - Cinema 3

enjoy non-stop
grand slamming action!
GRANDSLAM
SHOOTOUT
CONFERENCE II
MECHANICS
All daily players who are able to reach the minimum pre-determined game score qualifies to join the Monthly Finals
All Monthly Finals winners will compete in the Grand Finals.
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
May to August 2005
• Monthly Finals
May 28, 2005 - June 25, 2005
July 30, 2005 - August 27,2005
• Grand Finals
September 3, 2005
QUALIFYING GAME CATEGORIES
3-point Shootout • Stop & Shoot • Free Throw • 2-Ball Challenge
prizes
•Monthly Finals: Medal and P500 SM gift check per Premium Game
•Grand Finals: champion: Trophy and P3,000 SM gift check per freebies
1st runner-up: P2,000 SM gift check per freebies
2nd runner-up: P1,000 SM gift check per freebies
BATTLE OF THE CHAMPS
Monthly Finals Showdown with the PBA Pros
CONFERENCE III:
SM SUPERMALLS
SOUTHMALL • FAIRVIEW
NORTH EDSA • MANILA